

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 5th September, at Hakone, Japan, the wife of C. S. ADDIS, of a son.

On the 8th September, at Kuling, the wife of A. LAIDRICH, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 27th August, at the British Consulate, Yokohama, ALICE LILIAN, widow of the late B. SPAIN of Toronto, to J. W. WEAVER of Yokohama.

On the 4th September, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Right Rev. William Audrey, D.D., Bishop of Tokyo, assisted by the Rev. W. T. Austen; HOWARD G. BARRIE, M.D., C.M., to WINNIFRED JULIA, daughter of the late Hon. JOHN MACDONALD, of Toronto, Canada.

On the 9th September, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, FREDERICK THOMAS, of Dublin and Tientsin, to TEMPERANCE WADE, of Falmouth, England.

DEATHS.

On the 2nd September, at All Saints', Tientsin, BASIL DURNFORD, infant son of the Rev. and Mrs. G. D. ILIFF, aged two months and two days.

On the 14th September, at the Government Civil Hospital, ALEXANDER G. R. WHITE, son of R. J. and M. WHITE, of I. M. Customs, Macao, aged 4 months. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 21st August arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 16th September (26 days); and the German mail of the 19th August arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Hamburg*, on the 18th September (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A telegram received in Shanghai on the 13th inst. from Peking reported that Viceroy Li Hung-chang's condition was very serious, and that he had been unconscious for several hours. Later news announces an improvement.

It is considered rather significant that Tung-Fuhsiang's troops, who were still guarding Hsianfu, were disbanded as soon as it was heard that Major Pereira, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Duncan were approaching that city.

According to the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, Governor Yuan Shikai has issued orders to collect a poll tax of 30 cents per head throughout the province of Shantung in order to provide for his part of the money for the war indemnity.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late President McKinley, half-hourly guns were fired from sunrise to sunset on the 17th inst. from H.M.S. *Albion* and *Tamar*, U.S.S. *Monterey*, and from the land battery at Arsenal Street.

With reference to the reported retirement from office of Viceroy Liu Kung-yi of the Liangkiang provinces, enquiries made amongst those closely connected with the Viceroy who are at present residing in Shanghai fail to confirm the news. It may therefore be conjectured that for the next two years at any rate, there is no likelihood of H. E.'s resigning the Nanking Viceroyship so long as H. E. is in good health.

According to a Chinese telegram, H. E. Lo Feng-lu has been designated as Chinese Minister to Russia, but the Russian Government has declined to receive him. The story runs that Russia objects to him as being too pro-British. The *Osaka Mainichi's* London correspondent maintains that Wu Ting-fang, Chinese Ambassador at Washington, has been transferred to London, while Lo Feng-lu has been moved from London to St. Petersburg.

The following telegram is published in the *Gazette*:—"Governor, Hongkong. Following telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be repeated by me. Protocol signed 7th September. Powers have consented to Chinese import duties being placed on treaty basis of effective 5 per cent. on Maritime imports including articles hitherto free, with exception of rice, cereals, and flour of foreign origin. New tariff will come into force two months after 7th September and exception has been made only in case of merchandise en route (for) ten days at latest after 7th September. Duties will be levied ad valorem pending conversion specific duties. Swettenham."

The last number to hand of the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* refers to the difficulties in connection with Prince Chun's mission of apology to Germany. The story of the Kaiser demanding a *kowtow* from Prince Chun's suite at least and so causing the delay at Basle, our contemporary denounces as an English invention; the Kaiser never demanded a *kowtow* either from the Prince or from his suite. In this case it is a curious fact that surprise has been expressed in Germany at the Kaiser's attempt to revive the *kowtow*. The truth is that the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* is now more notable for its Anglophobia than for its accuracy, and its comments on the affair of Prince Chun are merely in harmony with the general tone of its editorial articles.

The pacification of the island of Leyte, P.I. is now assured, the last insurgent leader, Lt. Col. Pacheco, having surrendered to the United States authorities and offered to bring in all the men under his command.

An *Asahi* telegram, dated Tokyo, 3rd September, says:—During the wet season in Manchuria in the middle part of last month several villages were entirely washed away. Vast areas of cultivated ground lay under water for days, and a large number of men and beasts have been drowned. The Manchurian railway was seriously damaged. The loss of the temporary bridge over the Tashiho is reported to be the heaviest blow to the Russians. The telegraph wires were out at several places. The coolies employed on the railway stopped work as they had to protect their own dwellings and property. The repairs to the damaged line are making but slow progress. Trains are run in the districts where the flood was not serious, but even there traffic is very irregular. An engineer is reported to have left Port Arthur on the 24th ult. for Manchuria to ascertain the extent of the damage.

According to recent advices from Hoihow, the French seem to be making things lively in that otherwise quiet city. Several of the French officers are behaving very much as conquerors, and are intimidating the peaceful natives generally. Chinese merchants of good standing are strongly protesting against the French invasion and interference, although they fear the latter have come to settle. Only a few days ago a party of French officers shot at a sampan boy because he did not reply to their call, being asleep. The boy was severely wounded, and was eventually handed over to an American missionary doctor, and the Chinese official was compelled to square the matter by asking the Frenchmen to pay the boy's parents \$50. As Hainan has not yet become French territory—though the Chinese are fearing it will soon be—it might do no harm for a foreign gunboat to look up Hoihow.

The *Times of India*, speaking of the Dockyard question at Hongkong and the undoubted advantages from a civilian point of view of the removal of the Yard to the mainland, says:—Against all this must be set the strategical considerations which induced Mr. Gibson Bowles to call for the erection of new docks on the eastern side of Gibraltar. The Hongkong site is approached only by two strongly-guarded channels, and the height of the Peak and other hills protect it from a bombardment from the south or sea side of the island. A Dockyard on the mainland would be more open to a land attack than the present Yard, and would be far more difficult to protect against a naval assault. The Admiralty evidently consider that these advantages far outweigh any benefit which might accrue to Hongkong from the proposed removal. They have spent £150,000 of the million and a quarter estimated for the extension, and an even stronger case than has been made out in favour of Kowloon will have to be brought forward to induce Parliament to call a halt, and have the whole matter reported upon once more. The interruption of the Praya frontage on Hongkong Harbour is unfortunate, no doubt, but it is a matter of small importance compared with the maintenance of a strong naval station.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY'S DEATH.

(Daily Press, 18th September.)

The great shock occasioned by the receipt of the news of President MCKINLEY's death on Saturday was intensified by the favourable bulletins which had been issued during the week, leading to a general hope that the wounded President would, with the help of his excellent constitution, survive the murderous assault made upon him on the 6th instant. Friday's telegrams undoubtedly gave once more a serious aspect to affairs, but still we were not prepared for the terrible end which has now cast the civilised world into mourning. WILLIAM MCKINLEY has succumbed to the fate which overtook two of his predecessors in the United States Presidency, and, great man as undoubtedly was ABRAHAM LINCOLN, it is no exaggeration to say that the third assassination is the heaviest blow of the three directed against the United States. It is not the time now to discuss the exact merits of President MCKINLEY's policy in the eyes of the world in general; but it can be said without hesitation that the United States during the years 1896-1901 has had no man who could have done for them what President MCKINLEY has done. No name indeed can be suggested for purposes of comparison. His Democratic rival, Mr. W. J. BRYAN, beside him seems a farcical competitor, and it is extraordinary to think that his chances could ever be thought well of by any clear-headed critics. The premature loss of their distinguished and ever to be regretted President, as King EDWARD most appropriately called the deceased statesman in his telegram of condolence to Mr. CHOATE, is an irreparable blow to the United States and only in a less degree to the world at large. President MCKINLEY has ruled the States during an epoch of expansion, at a time of growth of the Imperialistic spirit. He has guided their progress into the ranks of militant Powers. Yet his presence at the head of affairs has been a guarantee that the Jingo elements should not sweep the whole country with them, that a check should be put upon aggression dangerous to the peace of the world. It is not to be wondered at that even the news of his sudden relapse caused general consternation and demoralised markets, as telegrams tell us was the case. A feeling of insecurity cannot but reign for long. The murdered President may be followed by a worthy successor. The United States have been fortunate generally in discovering able men to rule them. But it cannot be denied that the new President will have a tremendous task before him. Starting with the handicap of comparison with a notable predecessor, he will be faced by problems, internal and external, of the gravest moment to his country, which call for a very rare combination of courage and ability. For the present, that is until March, 1905, Colonel THEODORE ROOSEVELT, who first became known to the world at large as the organiser and commander of ROOSEVELT's Rough Riders in Cuba in 1898, and who was elected Vice-President of the United States last year, will succeed to the Presidency. What may happen thereafter time alone can show. The future offers a problem, the issue of which it is at present perfectly impossible to forecast.

The deceased President was born at Niles, Trumbull Co., in the state of Ohio, on the 29th January, 1843, and was thus over fifty-eight years of age at the time of his death. He was of Scottish-Irish descent originally, while his family moved from Pennsylvania

to Ohio in 1814. He received his education at Poland Academy and Alleghany College, Pennsylvania, and taught in the public schools for a time. When the war between the North and South broke out, WILLIAM MCKINLEY enlisted as a private in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, where he became Commissary-Sergeant on the 15th April, 1861, 2nd Lieutenant in September, 1862, 1st Lieutenant in February 1863, and Captain in July the following year. In March, 1865, he was brevetted Major by President LINCOLN for gallantry in battle, and was attached to the staff of General S. S. CARROLL. The war over, Mr. MCKINLEY took up the study of the law and became a barrister in 1867, in which year he settled at Canton, Ohio, which was his home until the day of his death. In 1876 he was chosen to be member of the House of Representatives. For fourteen years he represented the Congressional District to which his county belonged. As Chairman of Ways and Means Committee he reported on the Tariff of 1890; he had devoted his principal attention to the question of Tariff. In November, 1890, he was defeated in the elections for Congress in a "gerrymandered" district, but next year he was elected Governor of Ohio, and again in 1893. In 1892 he was Delegate at large from Ohio, and supported the renomination of Mr. BENJAMIN HARRISON to the Presidency of the United States. At this Convention, in spite of the fact that he persistently refused to have his name considered, 182 votes were cast for Mr. MCKINLEY himself as President. At length, on the 18th June, 1896, he was nominated for President at St. Louis, 661 out of a total of 905 votes being given to him, and at the ensuing November election he was made President by a popular plurality of 600,000 votes, receiving 271 electoral votes against Mr. W. J. BRYAN'S 176. Last November he was re-elected by 295 votes against Mr. BRYAN'S 152, although the Democrats had expressed themselves confident before the elections. Quite recently President MCKINLEY expressed his determination not to accept a third nomination. Events unfortunately have put out of the question the possibility of his reconsidering this decision, and his career has ended in a terrible tragedy. Last year a plot against President MCKINLEY's life was discovered by the United States secret service agents, and during ten days of August fourteen anarchists were arrested, singly and in pairs, as they landed in New York. It seems that an anarchist circle in Naples decided on the President's death and cast lots to decide who should be the assassins. Eleven Italians and three Austrians were selected and sailed from different ports, intending to strike at the President at the same time. The vigilance of the detectives frustrated this abominable design. On the present occasion it would seem that the murderer conceived the plan himself and kept his own counsel. He was thus able to carry out a crime which has plunged the world into the deepest grief, and added one more to the list of treacherous and wanton murders which have made the word anarchist one of the most horror-inspiring in any language. Recent years have seen many of these crimes, and authority is powerless to stop them. No blame can be said to attach to any one except the criminal, and the disease of political assassination is a phenomenon which baffles the skill of the wisest. The individual murderer alone can be punished; and it remains to offer the last tribute of sorrow and sympathy. To President MCKINLEY's country and his family these are most sincerely and respectfully tendered.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 17th September.)

It has been stated, and the declaration practically amounts to an official one, that after the termination of the peace negotiations at Peking, Russia will reopen the Manchurian question, and that China will be obliged to arrive at a settlement with her neighbour. The previous benevolent professions of the Tsar's Government will then, it may be imagined, be shown to be worthless. It is strange that any reasonable man could have had from the beginning any doubts as to the intentions of Russia when her intrigues began in Manchuria. That individuals should have short memories is natural enough and on the whole perhaps advantageous for the race; but it is not so easily explicable that with the records of the past to guide them, nations, or at least those entrusted with the guidance of nations, should know so little of the past, and should have learnt so little from the experience of former failures. A curious instance of this perversity is to be found in the negotiations between France and England at the time when Russia was pursuing a very similar game of bluff and intrigue preparatory to taking possession of the Crimea. In June, 1783, M. D'ADHEMER, representative of France in London, informed the then head of the Foreign Office that the King of France had just received from the Cabinet at St. Petersburg the official notification that Russia had taken possession of the Crimea and the Kuban. Would England, he was instructed to ask, look with indifference on the spirit of conquest which was dominant in the councils of Russia? Would England, he went on to say, see with indifference a Russian fleet supreme in the Bosphorus, or that Constantinople should be given up to Russia? If, he finished by saying, France and England joined in a protest, something might be done, but it was useless for one nation to act alone. England was at the time in the hands of Fox, and Russia had taken advantage of his well known proclivities to make the advance. The French Ambassador, in subsequently announcing to his Court the non-success of his efforts, made the remarkable prophecy that "the policy of England in so grave a matter could not be permanent, and sooner or later England would come to an understanding with France for the purpose of arresting the progress of the military and naval power of Russia, which threatened to overwhelm the East." Though as yet this prophecy has had only a partial fulfilment, there are signs that France under the force of circumstances is beginning to cool in her fancy for the Muscovite, who having had all he wanted would now throw her as an useless incumbrance overboard. Leaving this phase of the plot out of the question, it is curious to compare the present concern of Russia for the "well-being" of China with her similar professions towards Turkey in 1825. The Emperor NICHOLAS I had just come to the Throne, and then, as now, the body politic was in a state of ferment; the army whose discipline had been neglected was mutinous, and the civil population of St. Petersburg was in almost open rebellion. The British Government was occupied by troubles at home and was tickled with a sentiment of freeing Greece, so that altogether the new Emperor thought the moment favourable for turning the thoughts of his people from home politics to foreign war. It was of course easy to fix some outrageous quarrel on Turkey, the China of the day, the more especially as the Sultan had only just cut to pieces his rebellious Janissaries, and the Turkish Empire

was in the throes of a military reform. The pretended ground of remonstrance was the treatment of the subject Christian populations; the real ground was to procure the annexation of Moldavia and Wallachia as well as of the fortresses in Asia to which Russia had made a bogus claim. As in the present day, Russia had named a day as the last to which she would leave the signature of the proposed treaty open. The final issue of this forced treaty was of course the Crimean war, in which England, though too late, found that the advice of the French Ambassador of seventy years previous was founded on sense; and that, had she acted on it when given, she might have been saved the loss and expense of one of the most unsatisfactory wars ever undertaken. The tedious course of negotiations to which we have recently been treated with regard to Manchuria might equally have been spared had Lord SALISBURY borne in mind the lessons of history, and checked the first encroachment at Port Arthur. The advance of Russia in East Asia is in fact as full of danger to the interests not only of England, but of all Europe, as was the treaty of Adrianople, and an acknowledgment of the proposed cession of Manchuria will as certainly lead, and at no distant period, to a struggle for life and death, which, however successful on England's part, will confer as little honour and profit on England as did her war in the Crimea. Japan has probably a more correct idea than the statesman who now guides the foreign relations of England of the necessary consequence of any more shilly-shallying about this wretched affair. England, however, cannot forget that the eventual aim of Russia is an advance on India. It may be true that, as matters stand, Russia would not dare to embark in such a contest, but Russia has a consistent foreign policy, and above everything else knows how to wait. She did not venture to attack even Turkey till she had by means of secret intrigues sapped the loyalty of her dependent populations, and we may be equally sure she has spread disaffection by like means through the subject populations of the Peninsula. To England, whose motto is fair play to all, and who has never soiled her fingers by retaliatory measures, such a course seems incredible, but the experience of the last two years ought to have taught the lesson that such measures, however contemptible they may seem, are yet not beneath the usances of her neighbours; and that the best weapon by which to prevent them attaining dangerous headway is to recognise their possible existence and take measures beforehand to prevent their being attempted.

BUILDING IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 14th September.)

The question of the stability of buildings in Hongkong, which has been brought so prominently before our notice in consequence of the disastrous collapse in Cochrane Street, the most terrible in a long series of accidents of a similar nature, is one of such vital importance to the Colony that it must not be allowed to drop out of sight until another catastrophe re-awakens public interest. We have reason to believe that the authorities are giving the matter their most serious consideration, the result of which, it is to be hoped, will be to bring about a radical change in the state of affairs with regard to building and building-inspection in Hongkong. Among the local architects the opinion is strongly held that some system of registration should be instituted, similar to that which is demanded

in the case of medical practitioners. This would at least secure the employment of qualified architects only, as membership of some institution would probably be made a *sine qua non* for practice. In such a case no plan could be submitted to or passed by the Public Works Department unless prepared by registered architects. As matters stand at present, men who have a slight acquaintance with the routine of an architect's office, and are just competent to devise plans meeting the requirements of the Building Ordinance, may submit such plans to the Department. The introduction of compulsory qualification and registration would prevent such men from practising and doing the work of really qualified architects, an end which is obviously desirable.

At present plans are constantly drawn by architects and others for owners who have no intention of employing or paying for any supervision, the plans being simply handed over to a Chinese contractor to carry out. A grave abuse, also, undoubtedly lies in the fact that any Chinese draughtsman, employed in the office of an architect, who can draw up a plan fulfilling the requirements of the Building Ordinance, can send it in to the Public Works Department, get it passed, and then hand it over to some unprincipled native building contractor. Here the responsibility of the draughtsman appears to end, and the building is practically at the mercy of the contractor, who does not employ any competent European overseer to see that the plans are adequately carried out. Most of us know the ways of the Chinese "No. 1" man; architects in particular have reason to know them. It was but quite recently that, in erecting a building according to the plan submitted, the contractor did not hesitate to shift the position of the windows and in so doing to destroy the building's stability. Such an occurrence should be rendered absolutely impossible.

It may be taken for granted that buildings here collapse almost entirely owing to the lack of proper supervision during their construction, and the question therefore becomes: Should the Government employ a large staff of building-inspectors to inspect houses, etc., in the course of erection, especially those built under Chinese supervision only? Or should all building operations be under the supervision of properly qualified architects? We believe that we are justified in saying that the latter course is that which is universally adopted at home. Here in Hongkong the plan seems the only feasible one, for such an exiguous inspecting staff as we can boast of would have its time fully occupied were it only to examine old buildings now in a threatening condition, of which there are multitudes in the Colony. How could this staff be expected to do such work properly and also to see that the requirements of the Building Ordinance are carried out in the new buildings being run up all over the Colony? For instance, how can it even secure obedience to section 10 of Ordinance No. 25 of 1891? This runs as follows:—

"Every wall constructed of brick, stone, or other hard and incombustible substance, shall be solid across its entire thickness, and shall be properly bonded and substantially put together with good lime-mortar or cement-mortar, and except where specially permitted in this Ordinance, no part of such wall shall be thicker than any part underneath it, and all cross-walls and return-walls shall be properly bonded into main-walls. Sound black bricks may be exclusively used in the wall of the two

uppermost stories, but not in the wall of the other stories without the approval of the Surveyor-General."

The carrying out of buildings under qualified architects would ensure the observance of the terms of such a section and indeed that the whole Building Ordinance was in the main fairly worked to, while a moderate staff of Government Inspectors would be able to see that it was obeyed. It is also clear, however, that in the Chinese jerry-built houses of which we have so many examples in the Colony, the above section was disregarded. Nor are the materials used in such houses such as are required. Bricks of imperfectly baked mud and lime of an inferior quality are freely employed, and were the result other than what it is, there would be good grounds for surprise. And yet in all such cases there can be no doubt that the plans submitted to the Public Works Department were in order. A lot of work is involved in connection with this submission of plans, and the supervision on paper, the inspection of the site, etc., occupy much time. All this work, however, may be and indeed often is thrown away by the fact that, the plans once passed, an unscrupulous owner sets to work to run up the building as cheaply as possible, taking the risk of a prosecution in event of an accident. In this he is encouraged by the impunity which has been the lot of his predecessors. The Government can no longer afford to neglect this question, and as every architect and engineer of repute in the Colony is in favour of reform in the matter of building control, there is every reason why we should expect in the near future to see vigorous action taken to remove the stigma at present attaching to Hongkong on account of the inferior construction and inadequate inspection of its buildings.

ROADS IN THE COLONY.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

When Dr. ATKINSON at the Sanitary Board meeting on Thursday said that he did not know how the four-wheeled horse ambulances, which are being procured from England for conveyance of plague-sufferers, would stand the roads which we have in Hongkong, he called attention once more to an often criticised but still unremedied defect in the condition of Victoria. We have a Public Works Department which for its size gets through a fair amount of work in the course of a year, but we have not and we do not appear likely to have for a long time to come even main roads which are fit for traffic. A certain measure of complacency, it is true, seems to be felt by some of the authorities on the subject, for Mr. H. P. TOOKER, Senior Executive Engineer and Acting Assistant Director of Public Works, reporting on the maintenance of roads and bridges in Victoria, under the heading of "Annually Recurrent Expenditure" in the Public Works Report for 1900, said:—"The roads, streets, and bridges generally were kept in good repair." Mr. TOOKER must have intended the word "generally" to be used in a very qualifying sense, or he was not in the habit of riding in a ricksha about our main streets. The shocking road leading along the Western Praya would convince anyone that Hongkong roads are insufficiently looked after. It is perhaps our worst example, but there are many others which are a disgrace to the Colony. It is practically impossible to take a ricksha ride in any direction without being most disagreeably jolted and shaken up. In wet weather an element of actual danger is

added to the ride, and there was one case this year of the occupant of a ricksha being thrown out and injured owing to the vehicle being upset on the slippery surface of the road leading past the Hongkong, Canton and Macao steamboat wharf. Considering what little wear and tear our streets get compared with those in towns at home, it is difficult to imagine what material we have got hold of which makes such bad roads. Mr. TOOKER, in the report to which we have referred, says that it is syenite macadam and a great improvement on the softer granites. This being so, then the fault must lie in the way in which the material is laid down and looked after. If no improvement is effected we must remain under the imputation of having the worst roads of any European settlement in the East. The most humiliating part of the affair is that it is not want of money which prevents a change. We have ample money to construct as good roads as our neighbours, but apparently there is a rooted objection to spending it on certain most necessary improvements. After all, it cannot be denied that tax-payers have a right to ask that they shall have decent and well-kept roads to travel over. This is not at present the case in the City of Victoria, and we are glad to see the President of the Sanitary Board calling attention to the fact. Any visitor to Hongkong drawing his conclusions from the state of the roads would imagine that the Colony was in a bad way. The policy of allowing the creation of so unfortunate an impression is, it is needless to say, unsound.

THE PUBLIC, THE POLICE, AND THE COOLIE.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

Complaints, either in letters to the local Press or verbal, have been very frequent of late about the conduct of public chair and ricksha-coolies, and there can be no doubt these complaints are well-grounded. Numerous cases of insolence, refusing a hire, demanding more than legal fare, and similar offences must have come under the notice of most of our readers. Very generally it is asserted that the Police fail to keep these coolies in order and that this most troublesome class of native is being allowed to get out of hand. In reality, however, this charge against our Police is hardly just. In the matter of importunate solicitation of fares, a little more might be done to check what sometimes amounts to the mobbing of a would-be fare by a crowd of chair or ricksha-men. But with regard to insolence of conduct, etc., the remedy lies, primarily, in the hands of the public. Cases of the kind are usually passed over by the sufferer because he is unwilling to take the trouble to prosecute; he does not refrain, nevertheless, from ventilating his grievance and complaining of neglect of duty on the part of the Police. Possibly also many people take no action because they are unaware of the power of the Captain Superintendent of Police to cancel vehicle-licenses, should he think fit. The real and only remedy which the public has against annoyance and aggression on the part of the coolies in question is to send in a complaint to the Captain Superintendent for the time being, giving the number of the vehicle against whose puller or bearers the charge is brought, with other essential particulars. In such a case, the complainant may rest assured that if he has a genuine grievance the Captain Superintendent will send for the offending coolies and either admonish them or deal with their licenses according

to the circumstances of the case, without troubling the complainant further in the matter as a rule. But without the information the Police are powerless, and the public must bestir itself in the first instance. If the trouble is too great, the grievance cannot be very acute. We are convinced, however, that the failure to lodge the complaint in the right quarter arises chiefly from ignorance of the power of the Captain Superintendent of Police; and also, in a less degree, because a number of cases in the Police Court where coolies have been brought to book, having been dismissed with fines paid by the guild, have inflicted no punishment on the offender. A more harmonious co-operation of the public and the Police is needed to check the abuses which have sprung up, and we think that at the present this is not too much to hope for.

CANTON'S TRADE IN 1900.

(Daily Press, 18th September.)

Mr. Consul-General B. C. G. Scott's annual report on the trade of Canton is always read with interest, not merely from the importance of the city itself, but also owing to the original manner in which Mr. Scott looks at affairs. For instance, he can never bring himself to admit that piracy is a common occurrence in the neighbourhood of Canton. In his report for 1900, which is just to hand, speaking of the steam-launches engaged in inland water navigation, Mr. Scott says: "The security with which these launches, manned entirely by Chinese, run is remarkable; but few accidents occur, and during the year but 22 'piracies' on the West River and the waters of the delta have been notified to the Consuls or Chinese authorities, which gives one for every 6,000 trips." We may compare with this what Mr. PAUL H. KING, Commissioner of Customs, says in his report to the Imperial Maritime Customs. "Another equally reliable record," he states, "gives the number of piracies in the year at 30. The delta affords unrivalled facilities for the river thief and has been his happy hunting-ground for centuries. The provincial government maintained a large force, both ashore and afloat, for the suppression of these 'enemies of the people'; how far their efforts have been successful must be judged from the figures now presented." We do not see what end can be served by minimising the extent of piracy in the delta. By all means let the efforts of the provincial authorities be recognised, but to talk of "piracies," as if they did not exist, is absurd. Steam-launches are not the vessels most likely to be attacked by pirates unless the latter are of a very daring nature.

The figures of the Canton trade in 1900 we have already considered in connection with Mr. KING's report. In spite of the fact that the total trade decreased from the £8,873,771 of 1899 to £8,231,714 in 1900, the figures for the latter year were still the second best on record, and Mr. Scott's remarks may be endorsed. "The result of the year's trading," he says, "may, therefore, as it stands be considered highly satisfactory and of large promise for the future of the port, but when the figures are analysed it will be seen that they are far more satisfactory than at first appears. Both foreign imports and native imports show a sterling increase, the falling-off has occurred entirely in exports, almost altogether in the one item of silk." The silk trade, however, was not directly affected by troubles up north, nor even by the rebellion in the Waichow prefecture. The

causes are stated, on the authority of a firm doing a large business in silk, to have been a much reduced demand from all consuming markets and a consequent gradual shrinkage in values, which were abnormally high in 1899. Another factor was the competition of cheap Japan silk. Mr. Scott comments: "There is every prospect that the silk trade will recover and have a most prosperous future before it." For tea, on the other hand, which also showed a heavy falling-off, the outlook for the future is described as dismal. Low-priced Indian and Ceylon teas appear to have captured the market. It almost looks as if those who prefer the finer flavoured Chinese teas will be unable in time to get them, owing to the lack of demand making trade unprofitable.

As we have previously noted the salient features of Canton trade last year, we shall not deal with the figures again, but the remarks made in Mr. Scott's report under the head of shipping will bear quotation. He says:—

"The general shipping of the port shows an increase in the number of trips made by the steamers engaged in the trade, but a decrease in tonnage. This state of affairs is brought about by the number of small steamers, practically steam-launches, moving between Hongkong and Canton under foreign and Chinese flags. The total entries and clearances and total tonnage as compared with 1899 were 7,080 vessels of 3,507,644 tons in 1900, against 6,980 vessels of 3,696,996 tons in 1899. The feature of the shipping trade of the year was the transference of the fine fleet of the Chinese company—the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company—in June to various foreign flags on the outbreak of the troubles in the north. A fair number were transferred to the British flag, but the nature of the transaction was clear, as the business of the steamers in Canton was still conducted at the offices and by the staff of the China Merchants' Company and no one else. The tonnage of steamers under the Chinese flag only decreased from 469,285 to 354,724 tons, while the number of ships entered and cleared rose from 2,968 to 3,446, a very astonishing result, as the Chinese flag or merchant steamers, except in the one steamer running between Canton and Macao, was not seen in Canton waters. British shipping decreased both in number of ships and in tonnage, in spite of the transference of steamers from the Chinese to the British flag. In 1900 only 3,362 vessels of 2,911,194 tons entered and cleared, against 3,671 vessels of 2,985,976 tons in 1899. Of the other flags, ships under the American increase from six to 34 of 388 and 22,722 tons respectively. Under the German flag there was a decrease from 210 vessels of 187,434 tons to 160 vessels of 153,992 tons, while under the Swedish and Norwegian flag the number of vessels was identical, and the tonnage only some 400 tons larger. Among the other flags the changes were unimportant. Of sailing vessels there were 101, of 17,149 tons. These were all lorchas and were towed for the most part between Canton and Hongkong with coal, kerosene, &c. 94 vessels of 16,392 tons were under the British flag, and seven vessels of 757 tons under the French flag."

Inland water navigation flourished in 1900, and Mr. Scott finds the figures "astonishing"—he is rather apt to express his surprise in the course of the report before us. The throwing open of the inland waters to steam traffic he pronounces undoubtedly a great success at Canton, and the traffic will probably increase. As to

the transit trade, the slight falling-off in 1900 was no doubt owing to the transference of a large proportion of the foreign imports from foreign bottoms to native craft, causing by the underselling of the Imperial Maritime Customs by the native fiscal authorities in the matter of import duties and inland charges, including *lekin*.

In conclusion, we may quote Mr. Scott's remarks under the heading "General." He says thereunder:—

"Owing probably to the political troubles of the year no advance has been made in the actual construction of the railways from Hongkong to Canton and from Hankow to Canton, nor have the projected waterworks, wharves, and embankments of the river been proceeded with. Negotiations have, however, taken place with respect to the three last, but the Chinese concessionaires appear short of money and it would seem that in the original concessions, or some of them, a clause forbidding the employment of foreign capital, rendering probable the interference of foreign Governments and Consuls, was specially inserted. Many complaints of the result of the year's trading were heard on all sides and especially, and no doubt with much cause, in the silk trade, but on the whole merchants have done fairly well. At the New Year settlement some of the native silk hong were in difficulties, but generally speaking it was favourable."

(Daily Press, 19th September.)

In noticing the report on the trade of Canton in 1900 by Mr. Consul-General B. C. G. Scott yesterday we did not touch on one point, which is nevertheless of considerable importance to commercial men and others in Hongkong. Instructions were received, it appears from Mr. Scott's report, to prepare a table showing the quantity and value of the trade of Canton with the United Kingdom, British Colonies and Dependencies. It was at once found that no statistics other than those of the Imperial Maritime Customs were available, and they were useless and misleading, showing but a portion of the trade that reaches and leaves the district. In Hongkong itself, the depôt of the foreign import and export trade of the whole world with Southern China, no information, public or private or from the Chamber of Commerce, could be obtained. No one, says Mr. Scott, seems able to form an opinion even of the quantity and value of the goods from and destined for foreign countries, entering and leaving Canton in native craft, transhipped in Hongkong, except that they are very large. It is a curious fact, but of course one long recognised in this Colony, that the presence of this Colony on the south coast of China absolutely prevents the obtaining of any statistics even as to the British trade alone with Southern China. As far as we know nobody has proposed any practical scheme by which the anomaly can be removed. In the absence of any reliable information, the following rough approximation is given by Mr. Scott, based on the customs return. The import trade works out thus:—

"Opium, all of British origin, 669,600*l.*; cotton piece-goods, 191,000*l.*; all cotton yarn, except a small quantity from Japan, 33,700*l.*; woollens, 35,000*l.*; refined sugar, 31,000*l.*; the total of these items is 960,300*l.* This deducted from the value of the total foreign imports leaves 1,171,000*l.*, of this at least one-third may be claimed as derived from the United Kingdom and British colonies and dependencies—this gives 390,000*l.* in round numbers. At a low estimate, therefore, of the 2,132,000*l.* at which the foreign imports were estimated

by the customs, 1,350,000*l.* may fairly be claimed as British."

With regard to exports the case is different; Great Britain claims a comparatively small portion of the trade. Mr. Scott says:—

"The whole value of the export trade was 3,268,000*l.* in round numbers. Of this silk, silk piece-goods, waste silk, &c., represented 2,291,000*l.* But a small portion of this was destined for any British market, although the bulk of the trade was done by British firms and financed with British capital. It seems probable that of the value of goods leaving Canton recorded by the customs not more than 500,000*l.* worth were destined for the United Kingdom, &c."

This, says the report, is probably a very liberal estimate, but it should be remembered that the whole foreign trade, import and export, is handled, transhipped, and financed in Hongkong. It will readily be seen that other countries' claims to an interest in Canton have at present very little weight against ours.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 13th September, 7.44 p.m. Viceroy Liu Kung-yi is urging the withdrawal of the foreign garrisons from Shanghai, as their presence stops the settlement of affairs.

The arrangement of the Shansi missionary troubles was proceeding most satisfactorily, when suddenly some native officials raised a serious difficulty. This presages fresh serious troubles.

General Richardson returns to India tomorrow on the transport *Sumatra*. His departure is much regretted.

SHANGHAI, 18th September, 9.35 p.m. Viceroys Liu Kung-yi and Tao Mu have handed in their resignations as a protest against the efforts of the reactionary cabal at Hsianfu against reform.

SHANGHAI, 20th September, 9.10 p.m. Shen Tun-ho's corps of 5,000 foreign-drilled troops has been ordered to Sbantung to reinforce Governor Yuan Shikai.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CONDOLENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. A special meeting of the Legislative Council, to pass a vote of condolence on the death of President McKinley, was held in the Council Chamber on the 17th inst. at 3 p.m. There were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

Hon. Col. L. F. BROWN, R.E. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. McI. MESSER (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. J. J. BELL IRVING.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Acting Clerk of Councils).

The minutes of the previous meeting of Council having been read and approved.

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Hon. Members of the Legislative Council, I have called you

together to-day simply for the purpose of

giving formal expression to the feelings that I know animated every breast in this community when it was heard here on Saturday night that the miscreant's bullet fired at President McKinley had done its bloody work but too effectually, and that for the third time within the last half-century the President of the great nation of kinsmen across the Pacific had fallen at the hands of an assassin. It would not be seemly for me to say anything either in praise or disparagement of the policy of the late President McKinley, but we can all acknowledge the great qualities that led that gallant young soldier of the Civil War through all the struggles of his professional and political life, until at last he had been chosen by one of the greatest nations of this earth to fill the position of its President—one of the most tremendous responsibilities known to the world. Like Lincoln, he has fallen just after he had led his country through a great crisis, and for us nothing remains now but to express our horror and detestation of the crime, to convey our sympathy with the great American nation and our condolences in her bereavement with Mrs. McKinley, who has herself within the last few months been so nearly behind the veil, and to whom will remain as a consolation in her great suffering the loving remembrance of a good life well lived and of a good work faithfully performed. I ask you, gentlemen, to accept from me the following resolution:—"The members of the Legislative Council, on behalf of the people of this Colony, desire to express their horror at the atrocious crime which has deprived the American nation of a great President, and to convey through His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington the expression of their deep sympathy with the American nation and of their condolences with Mrs. McKinley in her bereavement." I will ask the Hon. Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council to kindly second.

Hon. C. P. CHATER said—Your Excellency, I beg to second the resolution just proposed. I feel assured that I am giving expression to the sentiments of the whole community—British and Foreign. At the same time, it is only natural that in the British Empire the feeling of sympathy with the bereaved widow and the mourning American nation should be keenest. On such an occasion the kinship of the two great Anglo-Saxon nations makes itself most strongly felt. It is but a few months since the warm-hearted American people were condoling with us on the loss of our late beloved Queen and Empress, and the late President was swift to flash across the wires a message of sympathy to our King, who is now condoling with Mrs. McKinley. Mere words are a poor vehicle with which to convey our grief and horror at a crime that has shocked the civilised world; but it will, I hope, be some comfort to the widow and some consolation to the people of the United States to know that wherever our common tongue is spoken, their mourning and regret are shared.

The resolution was accepted unanimously, and the Council adjourned until Thursday, the 26th inst.

Proposals are under consideration for forming a separate political service for Burma. It is hoped that this measure will ensure continuity in the frontier administration by the retention of the services of officers who show special aptitude for dealing with the hill tribes. The suggestions made by General Protheroe regarding frontier defence are being carried out. The defences of the existing posts are being improved, and the establishment of two new posts linking Sima with Nampoung has been sanctioned.

Mr. Cholmeley, the Commissioner at Mandalay, in his annual report on the China frontier, records the growing dissatisfaction among the Kachins at our inability to defend them from the incursions of the trans-frontier Kachins. The Chinese authorities are apparently helpless, and the Commissioner recommends exacting reparation from the raiders, who are really independent tribes and only nominally Chinese subjects. The continued absence of the British Consul from Momein, who could bring pressure to bear on the Yunnan authorities, is a serious disadvantage.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 19th inst. in the Board Room. The President (Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), occupied the chair, and there were present Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Mr. F. J. Badeley (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. A. Brewin (Registrar-General), Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

APPOINTMENT TO A COMMITTEE.

The first business was the appointment of a member of the Quarterly Inspection Committee, vice the Hon. F. H. May, on leave.

Mr. CHATHAM—I move that the President be appointed a member of this Committee, if he will consent to undertake the duties.

PRESIDENT—I am quite willing to act on the Committee.

The motion was carried.

TEMPORARY BATH-HOUSES.

Correspondence relative to the temporary bath-houses was laid on the table.

Dr. Clark minuted:—"These bath-houses were erected as a temporary measure to assist in abating the epidemic of plague. As it is impossible to guard against theft of fuel and misuse, unless an European is placed in charge of each, I suggest that they be dispensed with for the present. The buildings may be allowed to stand, but I hardly think the Colony is getting any return now for the expenditure of \$5,000 and \$6,000 a month. I hope that before the next outbreak of plague we shall have two or three permanent bath-houses in the city."

In a minute, the President agreed with Dr. Clark's views, and expressed the opinion that some of the bath-houses are undoubtedly a nuisance. He drew attention to a letter from Mr. Yeung Hin Pong, the owner of houses at 49 to 61, Third Street, who stated that his tenants were complaining against a bath-house erected opposite their dwellings, and asked when the Government intended to remove it.

PRESIDENT—These papers deal with the temporary bath-houses erected for the purpose of abating the plague. There are no minutes, but the Medical Officer of Health suggests that permanent bath-houses would be better. I think the papers might be returned to the Government, with a minute to that effect.

Mr. CHATHAM—I may say that sanction has already been obtained for the erection of one permanent bath-house in the neighbourhood of No. 2 Police Station, Wanchai district, but so far that is the only place for which a site has been selected. That is really the great difficulty in the way of making the necessary provision—to find sites for these houses. It is a very desirable thing that we should abolish these temporary bath-houses and erect permanent ones, because the temporary ones in many cases are a distinct source of danger. They had to be provided, though, and had to be put somewhere, so they were put in the street. But they are only matchsticks and liable to catch fire at any time, and may become a source of danger to a neighbourhood. I think there is little doubt the Government will be glad to sanction expenditure on these permanent bath-houses, if other sites were available.

PRESIDENT—These temporary bath-houses certainly did some good, but now that the epidemic of plague is over I quite agree with the remarks of the D.P.W. regarding them. I move that the Board recommend the Government to do away with these temporary bath-houses and to erect as soon as possible one or more permanent bath-houses.

Mr. CHATHAM—I second that.

The motion was carried.

LIGHTING OF CENTRAL MARKET.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the use of lamps in the Central Market.

On 14th June, the Board appointed a committee to decide and report upon the best artificial way of lighting the Central Market. The report of the committee was submitted at a meeting held on 25th July, when it was resolved:—"That the report of the committee be adopted, and that stallholders in the Central Market be allowed to use good oil lamps, to be approved by the Inspector of Markets."

This resolution was forwarded to the Government on 28th July, and later, the following

additional bye-law was made by the Governor in Council:—

"Market-Bye-laws.—31. All oil lamps used in the stalls of the Central Market shall be of a pattern to be approved by the Inspector of Markets, and such lamps shall never be used without a proper chimney or globe."

Dr. Clark minuted:—"I would suggest the following—'Stallholders who require additional light in their stalls shall only use electric lamps or smokeless oil lamps of a pattern to be approved by the Inspector of Markets.'"

Other minutes were—

Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—"I agree with the Medical Officer of Health."

Mr. Chatham:—"The rule proposed by the M.O.H. covers the point."

Mr. Badeley:—"I agree with M.O.H."

PRESIDENT—I suggest that the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health be forwarded to the Government.

Mr. CHATHAM seconded, and the motion was carried.

PRESENT METHOD OF DEALING WITH PLAGUE.

Under the heading, "Method of Dealing with Outbreaks of Bubonic Fever (Plague)," Dr. Clark has drawn up a statement showing the means at present adopted by the authorities in combating the disease. These are treated of under six heads—*Notification, Detection of the Sick, Removal of the Sick and Dead, Treatment of the Sick, Disinfection of Premises, Burial of the Dead, and General Sanitary Precautions*. Under the last-named it says:—"A reward of 3 cents per head has been offered for every rat brought to an officer of the Board, and over 50,000 rats have by this means been collected and destroyed during the first half of the current year."

Dr. Clark minuted:—"This statement has been drawn up by me and approved by a committee consisting of Mr. May, Mr. Osborne, and myself. A copy should be sent to each member of the Board and one copy circulated, so that it can be adopted formally at the next meeting of the Board. When this has been done, copies might be sent to the Government and one copy to each of the local medical practitioners."

PRESIDENT—With reference to these papers, which deal with the present method of combating plague, the question will arise for our serious consideration, when plague again appears in epidemic form, whether it might not be necessary for us to recommend the segregation of those who live in infected houses. It has been done before in Hongkong—in 1895 and in 1896, if my memory serves me right. Of course, when the number of cases increase to any extent segregation would become impracticable. But the outbreak might be limited if means be taken to check it at its onset, as in 1895. In that year some cases were segregated in junks off Stonecutters' Island, and amongst those so some cases of plague occurred within ten days of segregation. This method, I may say, is followed in every other place where plague has appeared, e.g. in Australia, England, Egypt, Japan, &c., with the exception of India, where I think they have now given it up. The question is one that we will have to consider later on.

The papers were laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The appointment of Inspector Farrell as a third-class Inspector of Nuisances was intimated. Inspector Farrell was formerly a sapper in the Royal Engineers, and for the past three months has been acting as a temporary inspector.

PUBLIC LATRINES.

The Government has approved the erection of three public latrines—one near No. 3, Police Station (forty seats), another to the west of Kowloon City road (fifty seats), and a third at the corner of Fourth and Kennedy Streets, Yaumati (fifty seats).

Dr. Clark minuted:—"These sites must be advertised in the *Gazette*, as this has not yet been done."

Mr. CHATHAM—I think the Government should be reminded of that.

COMPENSATION FOR DESTROYED RICE.

In a minute to the Board, dated 30th August, Dr. Clark wrote:—"I have the honour to report that a case of plague occurred at 106, Des Vœux Road West on the 27th inst. The premises are used as a rice-pounding shop, and a certain quantity of rice was stocked in the shop. Nine rats were

caught on the premises, one at least of which was suffering from undoubted plague; and after inspection of the premises and of the stock I considered it necessary to destroy the rice. I instructed the man to send in a statement of the value of the rice, and I also had it all weighed by Inspector Reidie. The claim comes to \$44, and I recommend that the man be paid that amount in the compensation for the loss."

The minute was forwarded to H. E. the Governor, who approved the recommendation.

ERECTION OF SHED FOR HAWKERS.

Correspondence was laid on the table concerning the erection of a shed for hawkers in front of Marine Lot 116 and Albany Street.

Mr. Brewin minuted:—"How many hawkers are to be accommodated, and what are they to be allowed to sell?"

Dr. Clark minuted:—"All the hawkers from Stone Nullah Lane and that neighbourhood are to be diverted to this area. They will sell eatables (including vegetables, fruit, conger, and cooked food)."

THE CONVEYANCE OF DEAD BODIES.

H. E. the Governor has approved a suggestion by Dr. Clark that six small covered-in hand-carts should be procured from home in which to convey dead-boxes through the streets, each cart to be capable of holding two dead-boxes.

A SENSIBLE INNOVATION.

On the 10th inst., Dr. Atkinson wrote to the Colonial Secretary recommending that two four-wheeled horse ambulances be obtained from England at as early a date as possible, so that they might be in readiness for a possible outbreak of plague next year. He proposed to reserve one for Europeans and the other for Chinese. Many cases on the lower levels could be transferred by this means more comfortably and expeditiously than by the present method in vogue. He also suggested that the ambulances be similar to those now in use in the London Hospital, which have rubber tyres and room for an attendant. H. E. the Governor has approved the suggestion, and the order has been despatched to the Crown Agents.

PRESIDENT—With reference to these four-wheeled horse-ambulances, my reason in wishing that they might be obtained from England is that they will provide a more comfortable and speedier mode of transit for patients suffering from plague (more especially of Europeans) in the lower levels. I do not know how the ambulances will stand the roads we have in Hongkong, but they have answered very well in London.

EMPLOYMENT OF RAT-CATCHERS.

Some time ago the Government approved the appointment of four Chinese rat-catchers at a salary of \$5 a month and 3 cents for every rat caught. On the 11th inst. the Secretary of the Board forwarded to Government a return compiled by Dr. Clark showing that the number of rats caught in the City of Victoria during the month of August was 1,291, at a total cost of \$38.73.

Commenting on the return, the President minuted:—"I agree with Mr. Osborne that many more rat catchers are required, but I would not go quite so far as to say that 50 are necessary. Taking the number of rats caught this year in August, and comparing it with the same month last year, four rat-catchers are not sufficient. The figures are:—*Rats caught and paid for*.—August, 1900, 4,549; August, 1901, 1,291. If we are to depend upon rat-catchers, at least 12 are required. A better plan, I think, would be to resume payment of two cents."

The following minutes were attached—

Mr. Brewin:—"Resume payment per head for one month as an experiment, and keep on the rat-catchers in the meantime."

Dr. Clark:—"The rats brought in by the rat-catchers are all caught. Those paid for last year were mostly dead ones found in the streets by the scavengers. These latter are still being removed with the household refuse, so that to resume payment for them merely means paying for the statistics, and at the same time it encourages these men to carry the rats about with them, and this is most undesirable."

The President:—"The object is to obtain as many rats as possible. I suggest that the old method of payment per head be resumed. In August last year 4,549 were killed, whereas this year there are only 1,291 accounted for."

Mr. BREWIN, reverting to an old habit, was asking questions with reference to the employment of these rat-catchers, the while retaining his seat.

PRESIDENT—Excuse me, Mr. Brewin, but it is customary to rise when you are addressing the chair.

Mr. BREWIN (rising)—I only want to get information on the subject, move "that this Bead be in Committee."

Dr. ATKINSON—As there is no seconder this motion is not put to the meeting.

Dr. CLARK moved that the Board ask the Government to employ ten rat-catchers in place of four (the number up till the present employed) under the supervision of a foreman. He commented on the risky nature of the occupation, and said that during the present year nine rat-catchers had died in Hongkong and two others on the way to Canton. When the Board recommended to the Government the appointment of four rat-catchers, it pointed out that the measure was an experimental one and that, if successful, more would be asked for.

In seconding the motion, the PRESIDENT said that this week Dr. Kinyoun, of the United States, who is at present in the Colony investigating plague, assisted Dr. Bell in the examination of a large number of bodies of rats, and out of 170 no less than 10 were infected with plague—a percentage of six on the figures quoted. This showed that in non-epidemic times rats were still infected with plague bacilli. The obvious course possible is to kill as many rats as possible.

Mr. BREWIN spoke against the motion, which, on a vote being taken, was carried, the Registrar-General being the only dissident.

RESTRICTIONS AT SINGAPORE WITHDRAWN.

The Acting Colonial Secretary at Singapore telegraphed here on the 6th inst. that quarantine restrictions against arrivals from Hongkong had been withdrawn. A copy of the telegram was laid on the table.

AMOY FREE FROM PLAGUE.

H. B. M. Consul at Amoy has reported that Amoy is free from plague, and that clean bills of health are now being issued.

MACAO ALSO FREE.

The Vice-Consul at Macao has reported that plague at Macao is no longer epidemic.

MORTALITY RETURNS FOR MACAO.

These returns show a total of 38 deaths for the week ended 1st September, and 55 for the succeeding week.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR HONGKONG.

The mortality statistics for this Colony for the weeks ended 31st August and 7th September showed that for the former week the mortality was 19.9 against 27.0 in the previous week and 24.0 in the corresponding week of last year. For the latter week the rate was 18.4 against 22.0 in the corresponding week of last year.

QUARANTINE.

A copy was laid on the table of a telegram from H. B. M. Consul at Saigon, of date September 17th, announcing that quarantine against arrivals from Amoy had been withdrawn; from Hongkong, reduced to one day; and from Manila, unchanged.

A copy of the telegram as to the withdrawal at Weihaiwei of quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong was also laid on the table.

MORIBUND INFANTS.

Dr. CLARK asked the permission of the Board to bring forward, as a matter of urgency, a question that had already been discussed by the Board at several previous meetings, namely, the question of infant deaths in the Convents. It would be within the recollection of the Board that about a month ago they decided that the body of every one of these infants should be sent to the public mortuary for a proper *post mortem* examination, unless they had been attended during their last illness by a registered medical practitioner, who would in that case give a certificate of death. The Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance provided that a doctor attending a person during his last illness should issue a certificate as to the cause of death, but although the Board was now getting these certificates, the procedure was not exactly satisfactory. They all knew that many of the infants were brought to the Convents in a moribund condition and died within a few hours of admission. Now, the Ordinance distinctly stated that a person for whom a medical certificate

was issued must "have been attended during his last illness" by the practitioner who so issued the certificate; but, in the case of a moribund infant, medical attendance a few hours before death was not sufficient to allow of the cause of illness being appreciated by the medical officer who gave the certificate. Indeed, went on Dr. Clark, he was of opinion that the Registrar-General would be justified in refusing to accept such certificates, some of which attributed death to weakness, others to jaundice, and others again to fever. Unless a *post mortem* examination of the bodies of moribund infants could be systematically made, the result might be, with such certificates as those of death from "jaundice," that an epidemic of yellow fever could occur in the Colony without the knowledge of the Board, and under the circumstances the Board would be perfectly justified in asking the Government to insist that the bodies of infants who die in the convents should be sent to the public mortuary, except in such cases where they had been attended during their last illness, as the Ordinance laid down, by a medical man, such attendance not to be covered, however, by one visit an hour or two before death. It might be thought, continued the speaker, that he was treading on somewhat dangerous ground and apparently making out that the doctor did what he ought not to do. That, it was scarcely necessary to explain, was far from his intention. Doubtless the doctor signed these certificates as a way out of the difficulty; but, so far as the Board was concerned, it was not a way out of the difficulty. They wanted to find out the cause of the present high infant mortality, and that object would never be attained under the operation of existing methods. There was no doubt a number of persons in the Convents who were there as residents—persons who were attended in their last illness by a medical man. It was in such cases that the Board intended to grant exemption when it recently passed the resolution bearing on the question. It was altogether different, however, in the case of infants brought to the Convents in a moribund condition. Dr. Clark concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That the Board beg to urge upon the Government the desirability of compelling the *post mortem* examination of all infants dying in the Convents within 48 hours of admission."

The PRESIDENT, in seconding the motion, said that during the last two weeks the two Convents referred to—the French and Italian—had contributed in infant mortality 46 out of a total number of 210 deaths in the Colony—a percentage of a little over 21. Undoubtedly, in a malarial country like this, he continued, many of these infants die from malarial disease, but it was necessary to know exactly how many did so, and to discover that a *post mortem* examination was needed. In British Guiana many infants die of what was termed malarial coma, and it must be borne in mind that infants with malarial coma were practically infective to Europeans, through the agency of mosquitoes omit. That was one reason, concluded the President, why he thought the matter one of urgency, because they would be able to ascertain whether these deaths were due to malarial fever or not.

Mr. BREWIN—I shall certainly vote against this, because I cannot see in the least where the urgency comes in. The Medical Officer of Health gets up statistics, prepares a speech, and comes and tells us all about it. As for me, I should like to have a little more time to think about it. The question has been discussed for years, and I don't think a fortnight's delay would cause any danger to the public health in the Colony.

PRESIDENT—Do you wish to move an amendment?

Mr. BREWIN—No, I simply said I should vote against it.

Dr. Clark's motion was then put to the meeting and carried by a majority. Mr. Brewin and Mr. Lau Chu Pak voted against it.

This was all the business.

At Kwanchauwan, the port leased to France by China, the plague has vanished after carrying off over four thousand persons. The French have laid a new town in that quarter to be called Albyville.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the Monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at the Chamber Room, City Hall, at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 16th September, 1901.—Present: Sir Thomas Jackson (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Messrs. A. Haupt, W. Poate, R. L. Richardson, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. T. H. Whitehead (*ex-officio*), and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

COMPLIMENTARY.

The CHAIRMAN said, before commencing business, he was sure the Committee would like to offer to Mr. Siebs their hearty congratulations on the occurrence of his silver wedding day (applause), and they sincerely hoped that he would live to celebrate his golden wedding (renewed applause).

Mr. SIEBS briefly acknowledged the compliment.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous monthly meeting (held 12th August, 1901), were then read and confirmed.

THE SANITATION OF THE COLONY.

The SECRETARY reported that, in conformity with the decision come to at last meeting, a reply was on the 13th August, addressed to the Government acknowledging receipt of the Colonial Secretary's letters of the 15th and 18th July, together with their enclosures, and stating that these documents had all been carefully perused by the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought there was nothing further to be said on that head. The matter was now closed.

THE PROHIBITION OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION INTO THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

In reference to this question the SECRETARY said that a letter was, on the 13th August, addressed to the Colonial Secretary acknowledging receipt of his letters of the 31st July and 7th August, and tendering the Chamber's thanks to H.E. the Governor for the successful efforts made by him to procure the withdrawal of the above prohibition.

QUARANTINE AND PLAGUE.

Letters had been received from the Government:—

On the 22nd August, announcing that plague being no longer epidemic in the Colony, the Governor had directed the issue of clean bills of health.

On the 4th September, stating that Amoy had been declared free from plague and that clean bills of health are now issued at that port.

On the 7th September, informing Chamber that a telegram had been received from Singapore of the effect that quarantine against Hongkong had been withdrawn, but that inspection continues as heretofore.

On the 10th September, stating that the Macao Government considered plague over in that City and that the special measures against the disease had now been suspended.

The SECRETARY stated that the receipt of the above letters had been duly acknowledged. He then read a notice from Saturday's *Government Gazette* announcing that quarantine at Weihaiwei against arrivals from Hongkong had been withdrawn.

THE DIFFICULTY OF PROCURING BALLAST.

The SECRETARY announced that, as decided at the last meeting, a letter was addressed, on the 13th August, to the Colonial Secretary acknowledging receipt of the Government's letter of the 30th July, and stating the Committee were glad to learn that H.E. the Governor had give instructions to secure the prompt issue of permits and that the question of quarrying for ballast was engaging the attention of the Government.

Some discussion ensued as to whether there was any need to quarry for ballast, but it was pointed out that there was no broken stone and that the loose stone had been pretty well exhausted.

PROPOSED REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

It was reported by the SECRETARY that, in accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting, a letter was addressed to the Singapore Chamber of Commerce in reply to their enquiry of the 27th July, to the

effect that a Committee was now enquiring into the above question, and that so soon as their report has been published, the result shall be notified to the Chamber.

The Secretary was instructed to ascertain whether the Committee had drawn up its report.

THE CHINESE TARIFF.

On the 13th August, a letter in acknowledgement of the receipt of the telegram from the British Minister at Peking on the 8th idem, stating that no change in the duty on opium was contemplated, was despatched to Peking, and a question as to certain other imports was asked.

Read reply to above from Sir Ernest Satow, to the effect that the only other exemptions to the 5 per cent. Tariff are rice and other cereals and flour of foreign origin, gold and silver coin, and bullion. The Chamber was correct, it was added, in supposing that cotton yarn would be liable to the duty.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 14th September, transmitting copy of telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies as follows:—

"Powers have consented to Chinese Import duties being placed on treaty basis of effective 5 per cent. on maritime imports including articles hitherto free, with the exception of rice, cereals and flour of foreign origin. New Tariff will come into force two months after 7th September and exception has been made only in case of merchandise en route for ten days at latest after 7th September. Duties will be levied *ad valorem* pending conversion specific duties."

In connection with above

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that the native Customs duties at all open ports would be collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs, and that all duties levied on imports *ad valorem* will be converted, as far as possible and as soon as may be, into specific duties. He thought that these were most important points, on which there was much cause for congratulation.

The Committee cordially concurred in this opinion.

It was decided, when writing to the British Minister to thank him for information recently given, and to urge that there should be no delay in carrying out the letter and the spirit of the provision for the prompt conversion of the *ad valorem* into specific duties.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

A reply, signed by the Chairman, was, on the 24th August, sent to the circular letter from the Ottawa Board of Trade, which has also been published by the local Press.

A copy of the *Times* of the 14th August containing a letter by Sir Edward Sassoon on the Pacific cable and report of a debate on the same subject in the House of Commons was laid on the table.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that they were much indebted to Sir Edward Sassoon for so perseveringly fighting their battle with the Telegraph Companies, and they would be glad at any time to render him assistance in his crusade.

THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND TRANSPORT COOLIES.

Read letter addressed to Colonel Collard, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, complaining of the difficulty experienced in securing tenders for the transport of guns, &c., not a single answer to the advertisements calling for tenders in the local papers having been received, and asking for the advice and assistance of the Chamber in the matter.

After some discussion,

It was decided to reply regretting the inability of the Chamber to lend assistance in the matter, and as it seemed obvious the War Department was being boycotted for some reason, to suggest application to the Registrar-General for assistance.

This was all the business of general interest.

The Bangkok *Times* hears that Mr. Jourdan, of Bangkok, has secured the contract to run the new Bangkok-Singapore line of French steamers. The concessionaire was M. Portal, civil engineer, and the subsidy is £12,000 a year for fifteen years. There are to be three steamers. According to the terms of the concession they must be of not less than 400 tons net, and have an effective speed of 11 knots.

SECOND ENQUIRY INTO THE COCHRANE STREET COLLAPSE.

The re-opened enquiry into the Cochrane Street house collapse began before Mr. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, on Thursday morning.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, addressing his Worship, said that on the 30th ult., an enquiry had been held into the causes of death of the persons killed by the collapse of houses in Cochrane Street. As he saw from the depositions taken at the said enquiry, his Worship decided that the people killed came to their death by the injuries received in the collapse of the houses in question. It had been decided, however, to have further evidence taken. His Worship acted in the capacity of coroner and coroner's jury, and therefore possessed all the powers of a coroner and a coroner's jury; also all the duties of such pertained to him. It was not merely his duty to find out the immediate cause of the death of those forty-three people, but also what caused the collapse of the houses. Jervis on Coroners writes as follows: "The coroner should therefore enquire as to the circumstances of the death; where and when the deceased died or was found dead; by whom he was last seen alive; who was present, or who first saw the body after death; whether any known illness existed; whether any negligence or blame is alleged against anyone." The cause of death was clear, but now it remained to find out what caused the falling of those houses. The evidence already taken might stand. It was only wished to call additional evidence. To begin with, Mr. Bowley called the owner of the building.

Chan Chün Cheung, the owner of Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street, being sworn, stated as follows:

I am a manufacturer of, and dealer in, matches. I reside at Nos. 42 and 44, Stanley Street. I own the houses Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street. I negotiated for the purchase of No. 32 on the 25th or 26th of October, 1900, and for the purchase of No. 34 about the 6th or 7th of November, 1900. The sale of No. 32 was completed about the 22nd December in the same year. The houses at the time I purchased them only contained three stories. I paid \$9,900 for No. 32 and \$9,800 for No. 34. I looked at the houses and found that another story could be added to them, and then agreed to purchase them. I did not consult anyone about adding another story before buying house No. 32. I have built twenty to thirty houses myself. I employed a contractor to build them. I never build houses without employing a contractor. In October I spoke to Mr. Hazeland, architect, about house No. 32, two days after I had made an agreement to buy it. I asked him if the walls were strong enough to stand an additional floor. I went to his office to ask him. He told me he would go and have a look at the house and let me know if another story could be added. A short time after he told me it was all right; I could add another floor, and he would draw the plan for me and have it passed and get permission. The alterations I wanted made were in the back-yard, which ran across the houses. The kitchen was behind the back-yard. There were bridges on the upper floors leading to the kitchen. There were two external cross walls, and I wanted them pulled down and one single cross wall put up instead, so as to have the kitchen on one side and the back-yard on the other. The new cross wall was not on the same lines as the old ones. It made the living room slightly deeper. Mr. Hazeland drew the plans with the alterations and showed them to me before sending them to the Director of Public Works. The plan of house No. 32 produced was the one sent to the P.W.D. The alterations were an additional floor and verandah. I have also seen the plan produced of a detailed drawing of the verandah. It was drawn by Mr. Hazeland. The first and second floors already had verandahs. Some time after the plans were sent to the P.W.D., I received a permit. Mr. Hazeland gave it to me, and at the same time handed me back the plan of house No. 32. Before I received this permit I had purchased house No. 34.

Continuing, witness declared that Mr. Hazeland said the alterations at No. 34 were to

be the same as at No. 32. He prepared the plans, which witness saw. Witness signed a notice, dated 7th December, to the Public Works Department, concerning the alterations to No. 34. Mr. Hazeland afterwards showed him the permit from the P.W.D. Witness did not remember whether there was an enlarged verandah plan for No. 34, nor was he sure whether he received a copy of the verandah plan for No. 32. He thought he did, however. Mr. Hazeland, after he got the permits for witness, had nothing further to do with the matter. Witness paid him \$40 for each house. The alterations were given to Poon Wo, and work on both houses was started at the same time. As to the tenants of the two houses, the first and ground floors of No. 32 were let to the Tung Yik blacksmith shop, the proprietor of which occupied the premises before witness purchased the house. He paid \$50 a month rent. The second floor was unoccupied when witness purchased the house. To make the alterations, witness asked the people in the blacksmiths' shop to remove, but they refused, and carried on their work all the time the alterations were going on. The blacksmith had a forge on the ground-floor, where he carried on his trade as a blacksmith, making verandah irons and brackets like those shown on plan C, besides other work. When witness purchased No. 34, the tenant on the ground floor was a building contractor, whose rent was \$34 a month. He still resided there at the time of the accident. There was a cockloft at No. 34 for storing beams and plant. Witness did not know whether any *fokis* slept at No. 34. The first floor was let as a family house, the rent for this being \$24. These tenants were there, too, when the accident occurred. The second floor was used as a seamen's boarding house, the proprietor of which moved away when the alterations were being made and returned when they were completed to occupy the third floor at a rent of \$28. At the time of the accident the second floor was in use as a family house. The tenants of the ground and first floors remained during the alterations. At the time of the accident the family houses were divided into cubicles, the following cubicles on each floor:—No. 32, second floor, four cubicles and one sitting room; third floor, the same. No. 34, first floor, five cubicles; second floor, four cubicles and one sitting room; third floor, no cubicles. The tenants of the second floor, No. 32, at the time of the accident, were people who moved in a few days before; this was a family house and was rented at \$22. The top floor was also used as a family house at a monthly rent of \$26. The contractor who made the alterations had done work for witness before, but in the present instance there was no written contract. They simply agreed upon the price for which the work was to be done—\$2,350, which included the whole of the alterations to both houses. Before agreeing on this price he showed the contractor the plans, including a copy of that for the verandah. Witness superintended the work himself, and visited Cochrane Street sometimes once and twice a day and sometimes only once in several days. He gave orders to the contractor as to how the work was to be done, and gave the plans to the contractor.

Mr. Bowley—Your Worship, there are several questions I should like to ask this witness, but I should like him to be cautioned first.

The witness having been cautioned and told that he was not bound to answer unless he liked, Mr. Bowley asked if the work was carried out in accordance with the plans or not.

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Bowley—Did you follow the plans strictly in every detail?

Witness—Yes.

In answer to further questions, witness said he understood the plans. Shown the plan of No. 34, he said he had put an arch on the ground floor instead of a wall, in order to admit the air.

Mr. Bowley—Did you afterwards put up a wooden partition to keep the air out?

Witness—The tenant did.

Mr. Bowley—Did you obtain the approval of Director of Public Works to put in this arch in place of the wall.

Witness—No.

Shown a section on the plan, witness said he saw four brick arches dividing the kitchens from the yards. He did not put in those brick arches, but did not obtain the approval of the

Director of Public Works to dispense with them. He also saw on the plan a chimney to the four cookhouses and a chimney stack on the top of the house. Witness did not build the chimney or the stack, because he thought they were useless. On the top of the roof of the cookhouse on the top floor, witness put a small house, a few feet high, to lead on to the roof. As it was only a few feet high, witness did not trouble to get the permission of the Director of Public Works. In the cookhouse of the ground-floor, No. 34, witness had not seen a recess in the party wall dividing it from No. 36. In respect of No. 32, witness admitted making similar deviations from the plans. In order to build the additional story, it was necessary to raise the party walls; three walls had to be so raised, and the coping had to be taken off the tops of the old walls first. Between one and two feet of these old walls had to be taken off before witness started to build. He saw the old walls before the additions were built on top of them. These old walls were built of what is called in English "blue bricks." Witness examined the old walls carefully, and found them built mostly of solid bricks, a lot of small pieces of brick were used for filling up. In witness's opinion, the party walls were strong enough to bear the additional weight. He did not, however, call an architect to inspect them, nor did any Government inspector see them when the walls were uncovered. Before the alterations the roof was a "pitched" roof, the ridge running across the house. The old party wall was thus higher in the centre than at both ends. Witness did not pull down the top of the party wall until it was level; that statement applied to the three party walls. To make the "corbelling" (projections for supporting the joists) for the new floor, holes were cut in the old wall and bricks put in, these being allowed to project. The roof was covered with Canton tiles. Witness did not intend to sell the houses. The alterations were completed at the end of last Chinese Year—about the 8th of February. Witness collected his own rents, and visited each floor every month. On the day of the collapse witness went to both houses to collect rents. It was about 4 p.m., and the blacksmith was working. Witness did not then notice any brackets driven into the walls, and on the verandah of the first floor, No. 32, he only saw some tables and stools. He only looked from the street, however. When he went there that afternoon witness saw no indication of an impending collapse in the nature of cracks or anything else to indicate that the building was in danger. Witness had to put brackets in the front wall for the support of the verandah, and he took down the wall sufficiently far to enable the brackets to be built in, then he built the wall up again. There were three brackets for the top verandah. Witness did not remember how far he cut down the back wall—in connection with the building of the additional floor.

Poon Wo, contractor, 3, Sing Won Street, said he had no partners, and that he had been a contractor for eleven or twelve years. He originally had been an apprentice bricklayer. Chan Chiun Cheung employed him last year to make some alterations in houses Nos. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street. They agreed on a price—\$2,350—and before agreeing on that witness saw the plans. Witness understood an English plan. The one shown him was that of No. 32. The alterations marked there were the building of a new cross wall, including foundations, the taking down of the old roof and the raising of the party wall, the putting in of beams on the third floor, the building up of the front wall, the building in of brackets with cement, the construction of two new door-frames in the front wall, and the laying of a new roof. The roof was to be covered with flat Canton tiles. Witness detailed other alterations marked on the plan. The cross wall on the ground story of No. 32 was 14 inches in the plan, but witness built it 18 inches. Shown the plan for No. 34, witness said there was a difference between it and that of No. 32. In the latter plan the internal cross wall was shown to have one arch on the ground floor and two windows on each of the upper floors, whilst in the plan for No. 34 there was an arch on each floor.

The Court at this point adjourned till 2-15, and on resuming the witness was further

examined. In reply to questions by Mr. Bowley, he said the work on the two houses was one job, and witness did it all himself, besides buying material and engaging workmen. He also superintended the work personally, and did not employ a foreman. He had no detailed drawings of the alterations simply the two plans already mentioned. As to the construction of the verandahs, he followed the style of the old verandahs. In the plan shown him (C) the party wall went up to a point in the centre, and to put up the addition, witness had to take off the coping of the old wall. When the wall was rebuilt, the junction between the old wall and the new was on a slope, the new bricks fitting into the old bricks alternately. In bricklaying work the bricks were not placed exactly on top of others, end to end, but in such a way that the joints alternated. In buying 1,000 bricks, one got 700 whole bricks and 300 half-bricks. When witness took off the coping of the party wall, he found whole bricks and half-bricks. The old wall was properly made so that every joint was covered by a brick—at least, so far as witness saw. The new wall built on top was better than the old one. Asked to explain how, if the old wall was properly made, the new one could be better, witness said new material was always better than old. When he built the new wall he used the old bricks. The Government did that; witness had seen it done at the Naval Yard. He thought it was safe to put the additional story on the old wall, or he would not have dared to do it. He had never calculated the weight of the material he was putting up. Witness made a careful examination of the lower part of the wall, but he did not go the length of turning the tenants out to do so. He could see without doing that that the wall was safe; for instance, the wall of the Court was safe.

His Worship—I hope so.

Witness said that in places he scraped off the whitewash to examine the wall, and in the blacksmith's shop he cut a hole to see if the wall was solid. He took out three bricks in length and four in breadth, and did it on his own responsibility. This was on the 22nd or 23rd of December. Witness did not show the hole to anybody, and he did not fill it up until the alterations were completed. The hole was made outside the kitchen door of house No. 32, in the party wall separating the two houses, near the street, and about two or three feet from the ground. It was nine inches deep. No other holes were made, and witness judged the condition of the three party walls by the hole made in the first. In order to insert the corbelling for the joists, the old wall was cut into and new bricks put in. The owner of the houses called frequently to inspect the work, and told witness to go according to the plan, and to use good material. The small house on the roof above the top cookhouse was built by witness, and was seven feet high. It was built of brick, and there was one on each house. The owner told him to build these erections, and he also gave directions not to build the internal cross-wall, as the bricks were useless. The owner further told witness to build an arch instead of a cross-wall, the arch on the ground floor of each house. The chimney to the cookhouses in No. 32 was not omitted, but was built by witness; none, however, was built in No. 34. The chimney stack was not built in No. 32 or No. 34. Witness did not build a latrine on the roof of No. 34, and he could not say who did. When witness was calculating the price, he made no reduction on account of the arches that were to be substituted for the brick walls, as it cost as much to build an arch on account of the extra labour.

His Worship—That is reasoning I cannot follow.

Mr. Bowley—It requires extra skill, your Worship.

Witness, in answer to a final question, said he did not remember seeing any Government official inspect the alterations.

Mr. E. M. Hazeland, civil engineer, who has already given evidence in the enquiry, said he did not previously state that he had anything to do with the alterations at No. 30. It was correct that the owner of Nos. 32 and 34 came to witness and asked if the walls of Nos. 32 were strong enough to hold another

story, and witness told him he would let him know about it. To ascertain if they were strong enough, witness sent Mr. Pearson to look at them and see if they were sound. He did not tell him to cut into them to see if they were sound, nor did he tell him to examine the foundations. Mr. Pearson, reported that the walls were sound and good, and witness, so far as he remembered, informed the owner to that effect. The latter then gave witness instructions to prepare plans for the alterations, including those to the cookhouse. Witness had the house measured, the work being done by Mr. Stuart, his draughtsman, who also drew up the plans, under witness's supervision. The plan produced (B) was the original plan of alterations at No. 32, which he sent to the P.W.D. He subsequently received a permit (D) from the P.W.D., Plan C, witness thought, was also prepared in his office and sent to the P.W.D. Witness never inspected the houses himself. After witness handed back plan D and permit D to the owner, he had nothing more to do with the business. As far as witness remembered, the same course was followed in regard to No. 34. If a wall was really bad, witness told Mr. Bowley, it could be told from the outward appearance, but it was possible for a wall to be externally good and yet hollow in the inside. As to foundations, it was the prudent course to examine them before putting on extra weight. Witness did not calculate the extra weight that was to be put on these walls, and he could not say off-hand what the pressure would be on the lowest part of the party wall. Mr. Pearson had been in the building trade for 25 years, and was an overseer under the Building Ordinance in the P. W. D. for a number of years. He had had no training, however, as a practical engineer or an architect. Witness had carried out the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance for the P. W. D. for seven or eight years, with Mr. Pearson as his overseer, which position he had filled for four or five years. Witness had always worked under the supervision of Mr. Tooker whilst the former was in the Colony. With regard to Mr. Stuart, his sole duties were to measure. Witness believed that originally there were two cross walls in each house (Nos. 32 and 34), with a yard between. It was not always the custom, in preparing a plan, to show the old work as well as the new. When witness was carrying out the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance, he would have passed such a plan where the alterations were small, but not if they were large. The new cross walls were in almost the same position exactly as the old ones, so a fresh plan was not required. The length of the party wall between the cross wall and the front wall was 36 ft. 4 in. The Ordinance provided that no such party wall should exceed 35 ft., but in this case the approval of the Director of Public Works was obtained, thus fulfilling the condition attached to the Ordinance. In the plan of No. 32 the height of the wall was taken from the "footing," six inches below the level of the floor. The proper way to ascertain the position of the footing was to make a hole in the flooring. In making alterations to a building, it was the case that the old portions should comply with the Building Ordinance as well as the new. One of the provisions of the Ordinance, Section 10, was that a wall should be solid across its entire thickness, but without opening the wall it would be impossible to ascertain whether or not that provision had been carried out. It was also a provision of the Ordinance, in the same Section, that black bricks should not be used in the lower storeys without the approval of the Director of Public Works. There was nothing in the plans to show what bricks the party walls were built of, and without a personal inspection it was impossible to say whether the builder had complied with the Ordinance or not. When witness was employed in the P.W.D., he took it for granted, when an architect submitted plans, that he had complied with the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance. Witness had seen houses 32 and 34, and in his opinion the cause of the collapse was that a quantity of iron was stored on brackets fastened to the party wall between the two houses. A portion of the wall was still standing, and some of these brackets were yet to be seen. In addition, the hammering of heavy material in the blacksmith's

shop would tend to weaken the wall. If, as had been suggested, a quantity of iron was stored on the front verandah of the first floor, it might have pulled out the party wall and caused the collapse of the party wall, upon which the roof and all the floors rested. If the front and party walls were properly bonded, the latter would go when the former fell out, more especially as the two would be further secured by means of tie-rods. In witness's opinion, however, it was more probable that the party wall collapsed first. The remains of this wall had the appearance of one badly bonded, but not hollow. It looked in places like two nine-inch walls built together. Ideal bricklaying was that if a knife were inserted in any joint it would touch a brick.

Mr. Bowley—Ideal bricklaying! I'm afraid it's not to be found in this Colony.

Witness noticed that broken bricks had been used to build the party wall. As a general rule this method was a safe one. Witness's experience had been gained in the P.W.D., and he had no certificates or diplomas.

The Court again sat on the 21st inst., when the hearing was adjourned until to-day.

EXCITING INCIDENT ON THE "SAINAM."

One of those incidents which are never long absent from the lives of those whose business brings them in continuous contact with Chinese—incidents that carry with them just that amount of danger which makes them enjoyable to those whom they affect—is reported by Mr. W. Harris, of Woochow, a passenger on the *Sainam* (Captain Dickson), a steamer which runs between Woochow and Canton.

The *Sainam*, as usual, numbered on her last run a great many Chinese amongst her passengers, but nothing out of the usual happened till Kunchuk, situated between Woochow and Canton, was reached. One of the Chinese wanted to disembark, but he used absolutely to allow the ship's comrade to go through the formality of searching his box. However, he at last yielded and handed over a key, which, on being applied to the lock of the box, was found not to fit. The man had no other key, or professed not to have, and as the affair looked suspicious a search was instituted amongst the other passengers, and the discovery was made that the Chinaman in question had substituted another box, similar in every detail, for that of one of the other passengers, also a Chinaman. The substituted box contained a worthless assortment of odds and ends, whilst the one stolen had rather valuable contents. The would-be thief had two accomplices, but these mixed with the crowd of Chinese on board and could not be picked out. Captain Dickson turned his attention to the prisoner, and ordered him to put his hands behind his back, in order to have them pinioned. This he declined to do, and instead, calmly folded his arms across his chest. A neatly-planted blow brought him to his senses—and the deck—and he was secured. He was fastened by the quene to a post, and his hands were tied behind his back. Deeming him quite secure, and the incident having apparently ended, no more attention was paid to the Chinaman, who was tugging at his cords. Presently he wriggled free, and made a dash past a man on guard, one of the crew, who was armed with a revolver. This man always stands at the head of the stairs leading from the Chinese quarters, and carries a loaded revolver to keep any chance desperadoes from rushing the deck. The escaping prisoner ran down the companionway leading to the lower deck, and jumping on to the ship's rail, threw himself into the sea. The steamer was then about two miles from Canton. The guard fired his revolver, but aimed wide, and did no harm. The vessel was stopped, and Captain Dickson ordered a boat to be lowered, and ran below for his revolver. A sampan was hailed, and one or two of the crew tumbled into it, whilst the guard got into the ship's boat. In the meantime a dug-out containing two men, probably confederates, was making rapidly for the swimmer, and seeing that he was likely to lose his prisoner Captain Dickson fired. The range was a long one, but the shot was good, the ball striking the water a few yards from the dug-out and, ricocheting, breaking one of the oars.

This stopped the dug-out's progress, and seeing capture imminent the two men sprang into the water and swam down stream, being picked up by another dug-out hovering near. The escaping Chinaman was overtaken, dragged into the ship's boat, and carried back to the *Sainam*, where he was fastened beyond all possibility of escape. At Canton, Captain Dickson handed him over to the British Consul, who preferred a charge against the man and turned him over to the Chinese authorities. The whole affair points conclusively to the existence of an elaborate confederacy of law-breakers who are a constant menace to the public safety.

PIRATES IN HONGKONG WATERS.

The police report that on the 14th inst. Po-toi island, lying to the South-east of Cape D'Aguilar, was visited by a gang of robbers, eight or nine in number, who terrorised the villagers and proceeded to pillage the place. When they left in their junk they carried away a great quantity of plunder, consisting of clothing and jewellery. One or two of the looted villagers hurried off to the police station at Stanley, and narrated the circumstances to Sergeant Lamont, who at once communicated by telephone with the Central Police Station here. The officials at the Central rang up the Water Police at Tsimshatsui, and the latter forthwith took steps for the capture of the robbers. Pinnaces were manned and despatched with all possible haste, the order being to scour the waters on both sides of the island. Inspector Riley was in charge of one launch, and between Shaunkwan and Quarry Bay he espied a suspicious-looking junk running in shore to avoid detection. She was brought up sharp and boarded. The crew were Chinamen, numbered nine, all told. They answered the description of the villagers at Po-toi, and as further they could not explain the possession of the miscellaneous property found on board, they were placed under arrest and ultimately lodged in the Central Police Station. Later in the day the goods were identified by their plundered owners.

RABIES IN MACAO.

Our Macao correspondent writes to us, under date the 15th inst., as follows:—

"Dogs, with rabies, having appeared in the city, and two privates of the local garrison having become victims of this dreadful malady, the municipality have resolved that all unmuzzled dogs found in the public thoroughfares shall be apprehended and destroyed. With a view to notify the public of this preventive measure against the spread of hydrophobia, the Leal Senado have caused to be printed, in Portuguese and Chinese, a large number of leaflets which are being widely distributed throughout the City."

It seems to us that the Sanitary Board in Hongkong should at once take steps to enforce the regulation against the importation of dogs from the neighbouring Colony for a period of at least six months. When rabies existed in Japan and later in Shanghai, the precaution we now suggest should be taken against Macao was enforced with good effect.—*Daily Press*, 17th September.

We are glad to see that, as we suggested in above paragraph, H.E. the Governor has made an Order in Council stating that "no dogs brought from Macao will be permitted to land in this Colony for a period of six months from this date."

L'Echo de Chine mentions the death at Paris on the 10th inst. of Mgr. Biet, Roman Catholic Vicar Apostolic of Tibet. The Bishop came to China in 1864, was made Bishop in 1878, and returned to France, broken down in health, in 1891. He had three brothers, also missionaries; one was drowned by pirates a little below Woosung, and another massacred by Chinese at Maulmim (?). Travellers in Tibet during recent years, including the late Prince Henri d'Orleans, M. Bonvalot, and Mr. W. W. Rockhill, have united in bearing testimony to the kindness and hospitality of the late Bishop Biet.

AN IMPUDENT CHINAMAN WELL SERVED.

At the Supreme Court on Friday morning in Summary Jurisdiction, before his Honour T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge, Tung Fat, a domestic boy lately in the employ of Mr. Terrill, manager of the Soldiers' Club, sued his former master for the sum of \$13, wages alleged to be due by the defendant for services by the plaintiff for the month of August and part of the succeeding month.

In the course of the hearing his Lordship had occasion to reprimand the plaintiff for his impudent attitude towards Mr. Terrill, telling him that such conduct was unfortunately common enough in private homes, but would not be tolerated in a public court.

When Mrs. Terrill was in the witness box giving evidence, the plaintiff asked her if it was not the case that he gave notice that he intended to leave his employment. Mrs. Terrill replied in the negative, and the plaintiff thereupon told her that she was not speaking the truth.

On hearing this remark, his Lordship at once fined the plaintiff three dollars for contempt of court, saying he would not have a British lady insulted in a British court of law by a Chinaman.

In the end, judgment was given for the plaintiff for the sum of three dollars, the amount admitted to be due to him by the defendant. His Lordship directed the money to be paid into Court direct, and not to the plaintiff.

RUSSIA AND TIBET.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 6th inst. has a lengthy article on the Mission of the Dalai Lama of Tibet to the Tsar, and shrewdly remarks that, according to the old axiom, *Qui secum d'accuse*, Russia's reiterated official assurance that the Mission has merely a religious and non-political significance makes it all the more certain that Russia has a political and interested motive in her sudden friendship for the Lama of Tibet.

The writer claims that the Russian naturalist and traveller Badmajew was the one who influenced the Lama to send the first Mission to Russia and open friendly relations with that Power. Badmajew is the only foreigner who ever succeeded in residing in Tibet. In fact, he is no foreigner, but himself a Mongolian. He wormed himself so well into the confidence of the Tibetans that he was even permitted to enter their capital, and was received in person by the Lama. Badmajew then worked on the Lama's well-known fear of English aggression, and held out to him as a bait the mighty advantages that would accrue to Tibet from a friendly alliance with Russia. This was the more plausible, as Russia has always posed as the head and protector of the Asiatic religions.

The writer further thinks that the fact that the Russian escort which accompanied the Mission back to their own country—ostensibly as a protection—was formed entirely of staff officers, plainly shows that the intention of a reconnaissance party was combined with the wish to fulfil the duty of courtesy.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 7th inst.:—The Gun Club shot their annual match with Shanghai yesterday. The light was good, but a strong wind made the birds fast and rather difficult. A lot of interest was taken in this match, as Foochow only required one more win to secure the Cup. We are glad to hear they were successful, Shanghai scoring 67 against Foochow's 72. A large number of visitors watched the shooting. Mr. Gittins acted as referee and Mr. Brockett as scorer.—Nothing daunted, the enterprising owners of the wrecked *Sobraon* are now working away at their property under water with as much zest as when it still rested on the rocks, and it is understood that they are meeting with fair success.—The dismal appearance of the street running through the scene of the late fire remains unchanged, the proprietors of the property, with the exception of Messrs. Gilman & Co., not having as yet commenced rebuilding.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CENSUS.

The report on the census of the Straits Settlements, taken on the 1st March last, has just been published. It is signed by Mr. J. R. Innes as Superintendent of the Census. The population of Singapore is 228,555 (170,875 males and 57,680 females) against 184,554 in 1891. Penang and dependencies muster a total of 248,207 against 235,618 in 1891. Malacca gives a total of 95,487 against 92,170 in 1891. Christmas Island shows 704 inhabitants. The Cocos Islands claim 645 inhabitants.

The total increase in the Straits Settlements since 1891 is 59,907 or 11.69 per cent. The increase in males is 34,600 or 10 per cent. and in females 25,307 or 15 per cent. The resident population of Europeans and Americans has increased by 669 or 20.5 per cent. There is a decrease of 1,531 in the whole European and American population (including floating population and British-military) mainly owing to there not being a British regiment stationed here when the census was taken. The increase in other nationalities are as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Eurasians | 606 or 8.6 per cent. |
| Chinese | 53,944 or 23.7 per cent. |
| Malays and Islanders | 1,985 or 0.9 per cent. |
| Tamils and Indians | 3,223 or 6.0 per cent. |
| Other nationalities | 1,680 or 45.3 per cent. |

The proportions of different nationalities in every 10,000 of the population in 1891 and at the Census are:—

| Nationality. | 1891. | 1901. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Europeans and Americans | 129 | 88 |
| Eurasians | 138 | 34 |
| Chinese | 4,450 | 4,927 |
| Malays and Islanders | 4,159 | 3,758 |
| Tamils and Indians | 1,052 | 999 |
| Other Nationalities | 72 | 94 |

Total 10,000 10,000

The increase in the proportion of Chinese is noteworthy. The ratio in which the four most numerous sections of the Chinese population have increased since 1891 is as follows:—Hokkien 25.5 per cent., Cantonese 20.4 per cent., Teo-Chiu 1 per cent., and Straits-born 26.7 per cent.

A satisfactory feature in the figures for the Colony is the increase since 1891 of females of over 15 years of age. As a natural result there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of children to persons over 15 years of age. The phenomena adverted to show that the constituent parts of the population of the Colony are undergoing important changes in their relative proportions. The population of the Colony is becoming more settled. This tendency is further illustrated by the fact that Straits-born Chinese have increased in greater proportion than any other Chinese race, notwithstanding the constant influx of late years of unmarried immigrants. There are now 44,022 Straits-born Chinese in the Colony as against 34,757 in 1891.

The increase of population in the Settlement of Singapore is almost entirely confined to the town. The resident population of the Municipality has increased since 1894 by 37,406 and the extra municipal population by only 1,040. Persons living in sampans on the river and harbour are included in the floating population as distinct from the resident. The number of these persons has largely increased since 1891. The enormous disproportion between the numbers of the two sexes of Chinese races at Singapore has been somewhat reduced since 1891. In that year the proportions of Chinese males and females of over 15 years of age in 1,000 persons were:—Males 857, females 143. The corresponding figures for this census are:—Males 831, females 169. The proportions between the two sexes of Indian races are about the same as at last Census. The preponderance of the Chinese race in the Settlement over other races is more marked than 10 years ago. In every 10,000 of the population there are 7,177 Chinese as against 6,606 in 1891. Twelve thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight persons were returned at this Census as belonging to the Hok-Chiu tribe. There was no separate classification of riksha coolies in Singapore who are recruited from this tribe.

NANKING'S TRADE IN 1900.

Mr. P. C. Hansson, Assistant-in-Charge, reports on the trade, etc., of Nanking in 1900. The past year was the first complete year of Nanking as a Treaty port, the Custom House having only been opened on May 1, 1899. Although no actual disturbance occurred at Nanking or its environs—thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy's wise policy and the splendid way in which the authorities, acting under his direct orders, kept the populace in hand—yet the upheavals in the North and, perhaps more than anything, the large gathering of warships of all nationalities at Woosung, did indeed for some time cause a panic amongst the merchants and brought trade almost to a standstill. This state of affairs, added to the closing of Tientsin and Peking, the chief markets for Nanking silk piece goods, caused an utter stagnation throughout all branches of the silk industry. In fact, no more effective "lock-out" ever took place. To make the year a still worse one for the Nanking traders, says Mr. Hansson, the provincial examination, which was to have been held in 1900, had to be postponed on account of the Boxer rising. This examination occurring triennially, with an extra "in k'o"—grace examination in celebration of some great public event—now and then, between them form quite an important commercial factor in this port. Assuming that each student spends \$30 it would appear that the population of Nanking is the loser by some \$600,000 through the postponement. On the other hand, the year, from an agricultural point of view, has fortunately been a good one, and foodstuffs have consequently been very cheap. Since the new century promises to be a century of railway building for China, a new and brilliant era should dawn upon the port of Nanking, on account of its excellent position as a terminus for the railways which will bring down the immense mineral and other wealth of the provinces of Anhwei, Honan, and Shansi. The distance from either Honan or Shansi is about the same to Nanking as to Hankow, and the engineering difficulties of a railway down to the river opposite Nanking are no greater than those of a line to Hankow. The great advantage, then, which should secure to Nanking its position as the outlet for these rich provinces is the fact of its being so much nearer the sea than Hankow and accessible to the deepest draught ocean vessels at all seasons of the year. It is, therefore, only natural, that a line should have been projected from the mineral fields of Shansi to the village of P'u-k'ou, on the other side of the river to Nanking, as mentioned in the 1899 trade report. Yet another line, from the mineral district of Hsin-yang in Honan, through Anhwei, with its terminus at P'u-k'ou, is also in contemplation. These two lines, if built, should revolutionise commercial conditions at Nanking, while the line from Shanghai to Nanking should also give an impetus to commercial life. One needs no prophetic eye to be able to foretell that, when these railways are built, the arrival of the first train will affect the place like the touch of a magic wand and will be the signal for an activity which in years to come, when China shall have become the land of railways as she now is the land of waterways, will place Nanking in the foremost rank of the Empire's commercial ports.

An Imperial Commissioner, superintending the making of Court robes, resides at Nanking, and, owing to the somewhat scant wardrobes the Court was said to be possessed of on its arrival at Hsianfu, a good deal of silk clothing made by the Imperial looms has been forwarded to the Court from here.

The year has seen the opening of a British, an American, and a German Consulate—for political rather than commercial reasons, says Mr. Hansson. The greatest importance attached itself to the policy of the Viceroy. His Excellency Liu K'ung yi, consequent on the turn of affairs in the North, and numerous high civil and military officials, both foreign and Chinese, have at various times visited Nanking to consult with His Excellency. The Kiangnan Mint, one of the three Yangtze Valley mints, shut down in the beginning of June, owing to financial difficulties. The taking of the Taku Forts, however, created a sudden demand for

dollars—the people disposing of their cumbersome cash, which, in consequence, fetched exceedingly good prices. The mint was therefore speedily reopened and worked at very high pressure, turning out 20,000 to 40,000 dollars a day until the market got choked with them. It being impossible any longer to stave off the inevitable end, the mint was finally closed on October 21, and the foreign assayer, Mr. Wharton, left for home.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 19th September.

THE HOUSE TAX.

I have already drawn attention to this new tax, the levy of which, however, has not as yet begun. On the pretext of having to pay this imposition, owners of houses have combined in raising the rents ranging from 15 to 25 per cent. As the tax to be collected is to amount only to 5 per cent. of the rental, the excessive rents demanded are a gross extortion which may generate dissatisfaction among the people.

PECULATION BY A CHINAMAN.

Information reaches me from Tanghai, where the Ancestral Hall of the people concerned is situated, that, owing to the claim of Kim Sing Lee not being satisfied, the Ancestral Hall was seized and sealed by the local officials, pending settlement of the demand. The procedure has been resented by the whole population of that district, whose putative docility accounts for no disturbances having taken place. Mr. Windsor who intends to leave Swatow shortly, has gone, in company of a French missionary, to Chow-chowfoo to see the Taotai there.

ABOLITION OF THE "FOREIGN BOARD."

Owing to the causes set forth in my last communication the Taotai has done away with the "Yeng Wa Chah" and thereby ended what might have proved, if managed judiciously and properly, a valuable adjunct to the Taotai's Yamen, in dealing with foreign affairs. It appears that in establishing the "Foreign Board" the Taotai omitted to report this to the Viceroy of this province.

TAOTAI'S RESIGNATION NOT ACCEPTED.

The Viceroy has refused to accept the local Taotai's resignation of office, and hence the latter will remain at his post.

A VIEW OF CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT MAY.

Under the heading of "Departure of a Personage," the Hongkong correspondent of the N.C. Daily News, writes:—The Colony has sustained a loss in the departure by German mail steamer on the 5th inst. of the Hon F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain-Superintendent of Police, who has gone home on a well-earned leave of absence. Some residents are of opinion that it would be better that he should not return. The truth is, there has been much friction of late between Mr. May and the community. A capable, industrious, and hard-working official, Mr. May was formerly popular and respected. He is still respected, but truth compels me to say that he is popular no longer. Impatient of opposition, somewhat arbitrary in his methods, and rather too free with his tongue when heated, Mr. May has on more than one occasion come into serious collision with his opponents, and helped to turn the Sanitary Board into a bear-garden. He is accused by his opponents of being too official, and of aspiring to run the Colony. And it must be conceded that the honourable gentleman has all the qualifications that go to make a Dictator. Unfortunately the Colony does not want a Dictator, and is not in a mood to be run by the Head of the Police Department. Mr. May's undoubted talents are being wasted in that department, and I am sure his fellow-colonists would hail his promotion to the post of Colonial Secretary in another Colony with genuine pleasure. He seems to have outgrown his post here, and it is not advisable—even in the event of the Colonial Secretary being transferred—to see another local cadet advanced to that post. A prophet has no honour in his own country, and we do not want any more experiments in this direction. It is most desirable that the various

Heads of Departments should receive the benefit of experience in other colonies, and not be allowed to get into ruts here, as has been the case of late years. I know that it is argued that the knowledge our officials have of Chinese would thus be lost, but to this I would reply that the Sinologists have almost without exception proved the worst administrative officers, and that some of the best men we have ever had, and who have shown the truest appreciation of the Chinese character, have been officials who have gained their first experiences in other colonies.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P & T Times* of the 7th inst.:

The Russians have sent 500 troops with some artillery to Huai-lai-hsien, but for what reason is not stated.

Gen. Chiang's troops are not yet allowed into Peking, consent being withheld by some of the Foreign Ministers.

The Imperial Customs Post has established a branch in Chingtingfu and proposes to open one in Taiyuenfu.

Col. P. F. O'Connor, I.M.S., assumed charge of the office of the Principal Medical Officer yesterday.

The Allied Villagers around Peking uniting with the brigands have been causing a great deal of trouble lately, and robbing wealthy families.

No answer has as yet been received from the Court to the memorial of the Plenipotentiaries asking for the abolition of the edict of postponement.

Li Hung-chang has sent messengers to Shan-tu, g for one million rounds of cartridges, and one of them has just passed through here with 480,000 rounds.

Since Peking has been restored to the Chinese, placards have been again posted up, but Li Hung-chang profiting by past experience is endeavouring to stop them and has arrested one man.

The *Chih Pao* remarks that a great many Russian soldiers have appeared in Peking lately and a few days ago some 70 or 80 carts were hired by them to go to Kalgan, but no further particulars are known.

Certain foreign soldiers are said to be again arresting Chinese on the eastern side of the river to act as coolies, and one man so arrested was a respectable Chinese who had very important business to attend to and suffered great loss.

The Chinese officials entrusted with the collection of missionary indemnities have been getting in one dollar for themselves and one for the mission, and this has led to all such collections being stopped in order to end the scandal.

Prince Su is said to be instituting numerous reforms in connection with the collection of *lekin* in the Peking gates, commencing work at 8 a.m. instead of late in the day as formerly, and thereby facilitating the convenience of foreigners.

A list of over 500 names of so-called Boxers has been handed a military officer by Prince Ching and twenty have been already arrested, including one official. It is not certain whether these men are really what they are represented or reformers.

According to the *Je Je* the French evacuated Paoting over a week ago, the Chinese officials escorting the last detachment to the station, and after their departure ordering the people to remove all flags and lanterns and restore the place to its normal condition.

The Chinese have been demolishing walls outside the Summer Palace and selling the bricks to the various Legations where building is going on, the Ministers being in ignorance of where they were obtained from. Investigation has led to the arrest and punishment of six of the offenders.

The Yahong folks have been getting into disputes with the villagers and have thus been introduced to the notice of the P. G. and some of them have been found to possess arms. The native papers state however the hong men holding certificates to show they are under German protection, were released and the arms returned.

Four men, C. J. Baker, gunner, G. Baston,

J. J. Cleary, E. A. Stansville (drivers), all of the 3rd section 1 Pr. Maxims R. A., have been sentenced to six months' hard labour and stoppage of pay until they have made good the sum of \$62.50 stolen from a Japanese in Peking by intimidating with a revolver. As all the men have borne excellent characters in the past the sentence in each case was reduced by General Creagh, the first two only getting three months, the third 42 days, and the fourth two months.

A regrettable accident occurred on Saturday last, when Mr. Bauld, who has been for some years the representative of Messrs. Vickers, Sons and Maxim, while handling a box of friction tubes in connection with some work for Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., accidentally caused an explosion by which his head, chest, and hands got severely burnt, and he had to be taken to the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, where he will be under treatment for some time probably. Fortunately his case is not considered in any way critical, but his suffering is great.

The State Lottery to be started in Peking to help obtaining funds for the indemnity has been revised by the advice of Sir Robert Hart, and the tickets reduced to \$5 each and Chinese allowed to participate. One million tickets will be issued monthly and it is estimated that allowing for all expenses the Government profit should be over a million taels per month. According to local native papers the new lottery is to be run on the same lines as the Manila Lottery, and a certain number of tickets will be sent to each port and customs station according to the population and trade of the district and the commissioner will be held responsible for their disposal.

It is proposed to form a Naval Gun Corps among the Tientsin Volunteers, four 12 pounders having been left here, two of which have been taken by the R. W. F. and the remaining two were offered to the Volunteers if sufficient men offered themselves to benefit by the instruction of a marine gun instructor available for one month. We believe the required number for one gun have already come forward and it is hoped that the full complement for the other gun will be forthcoming in a few days. Instruction will be given on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7 to 8 a.m. in the Base Ordnance Park, Bruce Road, and begins on the 9th. We think the opportunity an excellent one, which should commend itself to young Tientsin residents.

The native papers contain a prospectus of a new tribunal whose specific office will be the consideration of reforms. The document consisting of a preamble and ten articles emanates from the Throne though not in the form of a decree. It recognises the demand for reform, yet whether it is designed to further the object or to strangle it in its cradle remains open to question. The language has the ring of revolution, yet so intricate are the formalities required for bringing about the desired changes that one doubts whether any will succeed in getting through the labyrinth. Noticeable is it that the native Press is to be placed under a censorate. Moreover it is expressly stated that "all reforms except the most urgent are to be postponed until the return of the Court to Peking." That event is itself postponed until some time next year. There is not much reason therefore to apprehend a sudden influx of novelties in the way of legislation.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 14th inst.:—H.M.S. *Pigmy* arrived at Pagoda on the 12th inst.—Messrs. H. S. Brand & Co.'s auction on the 12th inst. included the residence of the late Mrs. Schönfeld. The property sold for \$2,950.—Business in tea continues on a very small scale in spite of the short supplies. The arrivals of Congou to date are only 282,000 half-chests against 447,000 half-chests at the same date last year.—Under the auspices of the Foochow Gun Club a shoot on somewhat new lines was held yesterday afternoon for a prize kindly presented by Mrs. M. W. Greig. The conditions were that the competitor walked towards the four traps and while walking a pigeon was released. If the pigeon was broken by the first barrel another bird was immediately thrown. For breaking two birds the gun scored 3 points, if only one broken 2 points. Mr. C. L. Howell being the winner, Mrs. Greig presented him with the prize.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

WEIHAIWEI'S PROSPECTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 11th September.

SIR,—I read with deep interest this morning your leading article *re* Weihaiwei. In every way I most cordially agree with "A Resident" and endorse all his views. I am well aware that a certain number of high naval and military authorities, also politicians, oppose our permanent occupation of and the strengthening of Weihaiwei. These oppose it for one reason only—*Money*. But most of the able, patriotic and thinking naval officers who have studied the subject are much in favour of Weihaiwei. Its advantages are numerous:—

1. Climate very good.
2. Capabilities of defence and strengthening excellent.
3. Ease and cheapness by which breakwaters could be built, so as to form an excellent harbour.
4. Ease by which dredging operations could be carried on. Mostly mud to dredge.
5. It would make an excellent base from which to act.
6. Last, but not least, it is a first-class training ground for our large fleet out here.

A dock should be commenced there forthwith, and the breakwaters and dredging operations proceeded with.

I have not touched on politics, our relations with foreign Powers, &c., but Germany would go with us, I feel sure. Arrangements could be made to run a railway straight from Peking, through German territory to Weihaiwei, having this latter as a base and thus doing away to a great extent with that impracticable and poisonous place Taku, which is now used as a base.—Yours, etc.,

R. N.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 14th September.

SIR,—It seems to me that the most noteworthy feature with regard to the occupation of Weihaiwei by the British has been the strange apathy and indifference shown with regard to the colony. Surely the Government must have known what they were doing when they occupied the place, but for some time after the occupation they seem to have been doubtful of their action. The latest, according to the papers, has been the stoppage of all work on the new fortifications and so leaving them in a half finished state. Frequently cold water seems to have been thrown on commercial enterprise, as witness the prohibition of mining in the interior of the Colony three years ago. A company started in Shanghai was enterprising enough to put up a few houses on the mainland, but last summer when they hoped to get some return for their outlay the Government suddenly forbade anybody to land, and I believe that up to now no compensation has been given to the company. Then again there is Mr. Balfour's fatuous promise to Germany not to build a railroad inland from Weihaiwei, when everybody agrees that it is essential to the commercial development of the place. I quite agree with your correspondent "R.N." that Weihaiwei should be developed as a naval base and that a dock with repairing shops, &c., should be built. The naval and military authorities in Hongkong tend to stifle commercial development by occupying some of the best positions in this Colony and so overcrowding it. It would be better for business people here if they removed their energies to Weihaiwei, and immeasurably better for themselves on account of the superior climate of the northern port. It has not our annual blessing—the plague—and labour and living expenses ought to be less than here.

Why cannot the British authorities show a modicum of the energy displayed by the Germans at Kiaochau and the Russians at Port Arthur? Is it that the South African war has so crippled England financially that she has closed her money bags to poor little Weihaiwei?—Yours, etc.,

MOONRAKER.

EUROPEANS IN FORMOSA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Tainan, Formosa, 28th August, 1901.

SIR,—On recently returning from a six months' sojourn in the Cheang-hoa (彰化) region, I came to know that there had been some writing to the newspapers about the Japanese treatment of foreigners in Formosa, and, as my residence here began thirty years ago, I hope it will not be considered unseemly for me to ask your kind insertion of a few words on the subject.

It may help to a better understanding of things to note that the foreign community in Formosa is mostly to be found in the two northern Ports of Tamsui 淡水 and Toatutia 大稻埕, the other being located at Tainan 臺南 in the south, with the exception of two missionaries whose stations lie about eighty miles to the north of this.

Moreover, while the Mission staff at Tainan numbers fourteen adults when all together—sixteen including the two just referred to—their official and commercial fellow residents number collectively only about five. Nor is the smallness of the latter class owing to oppressive measures being directed against them by our new rulers; because "the man in the street" knows that South Formosa business houses and those connected with them were steadily decreasing during many years before the island was ceded to Japan.

With regard to the foreign community in the north, I am not myself aware that public complaints have ever come from it about anything like petty persecution on the part of the Japanese. On the contrary, residents there seem to feel fairly content with their surroundings; at least, that was the impression produced on my mind when admitted to their kind hospitality on the occasion of my three visits within the past twelve months. I hope, too, it will not appear officious of me to add that last January they were much pleased at the Governor-General's recent gift of five hundred yen to their Photographic Club, and for his message that even the Emperor himself had graciously expressed an interest in its work.

Of course, we English Presbyterian missionaries in Formosa are better acquainted with what goes on further south; for thirty of our stations are scattered over Central Formosa, and as far inland as Paw-li-sia 埔里社, while we have forty-three more between Ka-gi 嘉義 and the Tang-kang 東港 river, besides four on the East Coast 臺東 and three on the Pescadores. It need scarcely be added that our constant visitation of those stations brings us into direct contact with all classes of the people, and affords us exceptionally good opportunities for getting to know what is taking place. A glimpse of this is seen in the fact that during my recent stay in Chang-hoa, I had to see the registration of no fewer than

fourteen deeds of Church property, a troublesome piece of work which could never have been put through had not the officials at the various District Offices acted in a most obliging and helpful way.

In looking, then, at the charges which recent anonymous writers have been bringing against the Japanese for their treatment of foreigners in Formosa, I should like to single out for comment one complete crucial statement from "An Occasional Correspondent" to the Hong-kong *China Mail* of 22nd June. After attempting to establish a somewhat far-fetched connection between the Boxer programme in China and such incidents as the intemperate language of a certain newspaper here which the authorities suspended some weeks ago, this correspondent goes on to say—the italics being his own:—"My object, however, is not to describe or protest against any specific display of anti-foreign feeling, as affecting any given individual or group of persons, but to attempt to show how, during the last three years, this feeling has been initiated, fostered, and intensified against all foreigners, and everything connected with them."

Now, before offering any remarks of my own on the question thus raised, I should like to

quote a few words from public utterances of two of my colleagues. Mr. Barclay has been associated with us here for twenty-six years, and what he says shows also how the foolish suicidal conduct of the natives of Formosa greatly hampered the Japanese in dealing with a problem which, under any circumstances, was one of enormous difficulty. He writes as follows:—

"About five years ago, at the close of the war between China and Japan, the island of Formosa was given over by treaty to the victors. The people of the island bitterly resented this action; and when, by order of the Emperor, all the mandarins left, they set up a republic of their own, and prepared to resist by force the coming of the Japanese. These latter sent at once a military force to the north end of the island, of which they took immediate possession. They then marched southward, fighting the people step by step, till at last their armies converged on Tainanfu. A day was already fixed for the bombardment of the city, which would certainly have resulted in great loss of life. But just at this moment the leaders of the movement fled, leaving the people helpless. There were then three members of our Mission in Tainanfu, and we were able so to mediate between the two parties that the city was peaceably occupied without loss of life on either side. It was fortunate for our Mission that we were able so to act, as it gained us the gratitude of both sides.

"The chief point of interest to us here is as to how the changed state of affairs affects Formosa as a mission field. And on this point I am glad to be able to speak. Both as regards the people and as regards the rulers, we stand in a better position than in the old Chinese days.

"When I went to Formosa twenty-five years ago, a common taunt against the missionaries was that we were there to take possession of the island. Now this has all changed. The people have no feeling of loyalty to their present rulers, they have no desire to maintain the present state of affairs. On the contrary, the objection they make is that our country would not take possession of Formosa when the people all wished that we should. And not only are these prejudices removed, but, in contrast to the behaviour of the Japanese, the people have come to appreciate the kind disposition of the missionaries. In many cases they are disposed to welcome rather than to resent the entrance of Christianity into their villages.

"So also in connection with our new rulers. They are a great improvement on the Chinese mandarins. The latter were, no doubt, required by law to tolerate Christianity, but they were ready to use underhand methods to hinder its successful propagation. The Japanese officials, on the other hand, even when not themselves Christians, know quite well that Christianity, as compared especially with Chinese heathenism, tends in the direction of civilisation, good order, and enlightenment—the very objects which they are there to promote. Nor is this to them only a matter of theory. They have seen it exemplified in what they found in Formosa. When they took over the island there were in all between 3,000 and 4,000 communicants (i.e., Church members) in it, beside a much larger number of adherents. And the Japanese officials, Christian and non-Christian, bear testimony to the fact that wherever they found Christianity established and a Christian community existing, there the people were more honest, truthful, and law-abiding than their heathen neighbours. Some of these officials are themselves Christians and have become good friends and helpers. And those who are not themselves Christians, and might possibly regret to see Christianity making much progress among their fellow-countrymen in Japan proper, feel less jealousy as to its spread amongst their Chinese fellow-subjects. Especially, perhaps, have the results of the work carried on among the civilised aborigines of the island impressed them; it has been, even from a worldly point of view, the salvation of those tribes, giving to them a greater manliness and independence.

"Of course, there are other elements in the situation less favourable to our work, which would require to be taken into account in a complete, detailed view of the state of the case. But that the hopeful view taken above is on

the whole a correct one seems to be proved by the recent history of our Mission. Before the Japanese occupation, the number of adult baptisms was about one hundred or more annually. Three years ago the number amounted to 156. Two years ago the number rose to 241. Last year the number was over 360. During these three years the number of places for worship and of hearers and adherents also greatly increased. So that in South Formosa the field for missionary labour is at present very hopeful"—*Ecumenical Missionary Conference, New York, 1900. Vol. I, p. 530.*

The other testimony is from Dr. Anderson, for twenty-three years the respected medical man of our Mission; who, like Mr. Barclay, is a thoroughly trustworthy witness on the matters he writes about. He says when writing from Tainan last January:—

"Interest, here, as at home, is largely concentrated on the Boxer troubles in the north of China. Everything is quiet throughout our island, but there can be little doubt but that, had we still been under mandarin rule, the case would have been very different.

"The Japanese appear to be getting a better hold of Formosa of late. They are beginning to understand the people, and their rule is more temperate than formerly. They are consequently less disliked by the natives generally. Besides, the immigration from Japan proper brings a better type of character than we had at first. The coarse coolie element no longer predominates, and it is noticeable that there are fewer Japanese in a state of intoxication to be seen upon the streets than was the case a year or two ago. All this bodes well for the future peace of the island, and for the harmonious relations of the two peoples.

"Some very decided benefits from the new rule are also apparent. For one thing, heathen bigotry on the part of the Chinese is not so intense, and public persecution of Christianity at least is practically a thing of the past. I suppose we would be free, so far as any fear of opposition from the people is concerned, to erect places of worship anywhere throughout the island.

"The *fung-shui* superstition also received its death blow when Formosa changed hands; a proof which must have appealed powerfully to the natives was the piercing of the City wall lately for the railway between here and the South. In the old days, the idea of such a thing would have made Chinamen stand aghast in horror; now it is regarded, outwardly at least, as a matter of course. There is no doubt that the Chinese generally are better off since the transfer of the island. Labour is more remunerative, and produce of all kinds obtains higher prices."—*The Monthly Messenger for March 1901, p. 73.*

I hope I have not drawn too largely on the reader's patience by quoting these lengthened extracts. Some persons may think that much of what they contain is irrelevant here, but my point is this: that, if an extensive missionary work covering two-thirds of the Island, and administered to by three times as many foreigners as those belonging to the merchantile class, is not only tolerated, but even encouraged, and this by officials who could easily put obstacles in the way, then I say that the position of "An Occasional Correspondent" in his statement of 22nd June is untenable, and that he cannot himself be regarded as a reliable guide in forming public opinion on the matters now under discussion.

The puzzle to me is that this self-appointed spokesman on our behalf should exert himself so much in ransacking for materials to build up a case against the officials of Formosa, and especially against its chief civilian, Dr. Goto; and, while I have no desire to be uncharitable, it will not cause much surprise for me to state that others besides myself would be sorry if this sort of thing should be accepted by cultivated Orientals as a sample of the way which English gentlemen usually act.

Further, I venture to say that the prospect which "An Occasional Correspondent" has had placed before him of moving "semi-public bodies like the Chambers of Commerce and the China Association" that they may impress his views on the British Government, does not concern the Japanese very much; and for this reason,

that, being shrewd men of business, those connected with such bodies, like our own Mission convenor the late Mr. Hugh M. Matheson of 3, Lombard Street, are also sensible men of honour, who believe in both sides of the "live and let live" principle; and who therefore, deal very discriminatingly with the cases which are brought before them.

By the way, to some individuals it may have seemed as if the very foundations were beginning to shake when, in his issue of 22nd June, the Editor of the *China Mail* "relying absolutely and confidently on the bona-fides of our correspondent" promised to begin his agitation by printing the contents of certain mysteriously important documents which had come into his possession.

I humbly think, however, that "Our Correspondent" never rendered the Chief of the Civil Administration here more effective service than by getting someone to prepare those documents for publication; for, let any man first carefully read even the version of Dr. Goto's words as given in the *China Mail* of 25th June *et seq.*, and then compare it with, say, the contribution of "Our Correspondent" for 23rd March and 22nd June. Readers themselves can follow out the contrast, my own one word about the matter being that, in the former set of documents, we see no trace of the sea-lawyer, or of any desire to further mere personal ends, but the working of a mind which is accustomed to grapple with large complex problems; so much so that whether we accept Dr. Goto's conclusions or reject them, few will deny that he states his case with consummate ability as well as with fairness, and exactly in the way which every true lover of his own country would wish to do.

Why is it, then, that those who favour "the open door" and "spheres of influence" denounce so vehemently this public and calmly-reasoned advocacy of a Japanese scholar and diplomat for closer relations between China and Japan? I leave others to furnish the few plain answers which could be given to that question; only asking them to remember that honourable rivalry in trade, coupled with frank acknowledgement of all generally conceded national rights, is a maxim which has never received any great countenance from men like the British Philistine or Mr. Pecksniff.

But my letter has already got beyond ordinary limits, and must be concluded with two remarks. (1) It is quite admitted that recent changes have wrought to the disadvantage of a very few well-to-do Europeans in South Formosa; such changes, for example, as the camphor production having been taken under Government control, the Japanese supplanting of our welcome but high-tariffed little s.s. *Thales* by a mail steamer of their own, and the hopeful attempt now being made by them to monopolise the profits of the sugar trade. Surely, however, evolutions of this kind are but the fortune of war and should excite neither surprise nor ill-feeling in the mind of any right-thinking person. (2) My own belief is that a more sympathetic attitude would be shown towards the Formosa Administration by outsiders were it known how much they have done since Dr. Goto's arrival for the betterment of all classes of the people. It is within my knowledge that millions of dollars have been spent on survey-work, road-making, trolley and railway lines, postal, telegraph, and telephone stations, military, police, and civil establishments; besides large Government outlay on common and higher schools, hospitals, and light-houses; as well as in providing a regular service of steamers round the island and to the Pescadores.

And let it be observed that all this is but a harbinger of still greater progress in the near future; because I am convinced that Formosa will yet become a most valuable possession; and that, so far as my observation goes, the servants of the Government are faithfully and without noise striving to hasten the consummation. It is possible that readers who see nothing amiss in the irresponsible fault-finding of "An Occasional Correspondent" may regard any such word of commendation from me as being in very bad form. Still, there are times when, like the early Christians, "we cannot but speak of the things which we have seen and heard."—I am, &c.,

W. CAMPBELL.

ARCHITECTS TO HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 17th September.

SIR,—In your leading article of Saturday, the 14th inst., regarding building in Hongkong, you stated that the opinion of the local architects is strongly against the draughtsmen and others who do not hold a certificate of member of any institution, although competent to devise plans meeting the requirements of the Building Ordinance and submit same for the approval of the Public Works Department. Any law depriving these men from carrying on their business in future would be, beyond doubt, a hardship on them, especially as they are to this day found competent by that Department. Many of them do not hold a certificate but possess great experience to carry on in the most competent way the works entrusted to them. The fact is that the field at present is too extensive for those who hold certificates, which is about half of all the Europeans who are now in actual practice.

It is not in the hands of the architects to dictate to the owners regarding the supervision of the buildings; they can only make such recommendations as they think are advisable and prudent. The construction of the buildings may, however, be supervised by the Government in such a manner as to secure the fulfilment of the plan approved by the Public Works Department.—Yours, etc.,

IMPARTIAL.

MCAULIFFE V. BENTLEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Torpedo Depot,
Kowloon, 17th September.

SIR,—In reference to J. McAuliffe's challenge in the *Daily Press* to me, I think it nothing else but bluff on the part of McAuliffe, to issue a challenge for that sum of money, knowing full well that I am not in the position to find the amount. Now, if the gentlemen of the boxing fraternity of Hongkong will agree with me as regards my challenge, I will stake \$200 of my own money, as well as all the gate receipts—that is about as much as I can afford—the winner to take the lot. This ought to be worth his while staying for, considering his present position as a boxer. With regard to stopping Deegan, Monk, Smart, and Whitney in six rounds, I will undertake to stop the above mentioned in four rounds each, as it is nothing to his credit stopping such men as they are. If McAuliffe means business and not paper-talk and agrees to the terms I stated in the *China Mail*, he can rely upon a match with me. Speaking of my reputation as a fighter, these are the principal men I have met and defeated:—Starlot Thomas in 9 rounds; McLure in 7 rds.; A. Lewis, light-weight, in 5 rds.; Redman George in 15 rds.; Howers, light-weight, in 3 rds.; F. Seales in 5 rds.; T. Thomas, heavy-weight, in 6 rds.; won a competition at Halifax, Nova Scotia, beating S. Grooves in 2 rds.; J. Finlay in 3 rds.; F. James in 1 rd.; beat T. Lontes for the Army and Navy Championship in 4 rds.; and a second time in 2 rds. with bare knuckles; beat F. Martin for the heavy-weight Championship of Canada in 23 rds., bare knuckles; beat M. Flynn in 4 rds.; T. Rooney twice, first in 20 rds., the second time in 8 rds.; beat S. Murphy in 3 rds.; T. Merrin in 5 rds.; H. Barret, of London, in 3 rds.; T. Scoble in 2 rds.; stood before T. Vincent, heavy-weight of the West of England, for 4 rds., also T. James for 4 rds.; knocked out T. Lidstone in 8 rds.; A. Clifford in 6 rds.; got the decision against Pat Daily of America, who undertook to stop me in 10 rds.; beat T. Lidstone a second time in 4 rds.; beat F. Lucas for the welter-weight of the Midlands in 2 rds.; issued a challenge to Army and Navy and West of England at 10 stone which was accepted by J. Williams, whom I beat in 10 rds.; and many others too numerous to mention. I am now willing to box any man from 10 stone to 10st. 10lbs.—no man, white or coloured, barred in the Colony.—Yours, etc.,

SAM BENTLEY,

10-stone Champion of Army and Navy

DRAWBACKS IN MACAO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 18th September.

SIR,—Sportsmen going to Macao, if they do not wish to experience inconvenience, should not take dogs with them, as the Municipal Council has ordered that all dogs found unmuzzled in the streets, although wearing a collar, are to be destroyed immediately. The reason for this drastic measure is explained as follows:—About four months ago a man who owned a dog tried one night, in a jocular spirit, to put his dog in a bath. The animal struggled and bit its owner, who died soon afterwards, exhibiting strong symptoms of hydrophobia. Just lately another man was bitten by a dog. The animal was killed, but it was not ascertained whether it was suffering from the malady. The Government very prudently sent the man to the Pasteur Institute in Saigon. To muzzle a dog for a long time may cause serious disorders, and it is a pity to slaughter indiscriminately this useful and faithful companion of man without giving the owners time to reclaim them. This order has been carried out in a most ruthless manner, but the public generally are not aware of it. Unfortunately, in Macao there is no Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. One of the evils of that Settlement is excessive legislation, and the Ordinances are so numerous and many of them so useless that they are generally either soon forgotten or disregarded. Some years ago a notice was published prohibiting shooting in the city; yet men, and even boys, are daily killing all sorts of birds in the public gardens and roads without police interference. The authorities in Macao are well-intentioned men, but they should devote their energies to more useful works. The lighting of the city is worse than ever, the water supply is very deficient, and almost all the public wells are contaminated by sewage from badly constructed drains. No wonder that typhoid fever is rife in the Colony. The sanitary conditions of many districts inhabited by Chinese are most deplorable. In fact, a district situated close to Old St. Paul's Church is one most prolific in plague; but instead of improving these places first, the authorities are going to do away with the plantation opposite the ancient Chinese temples, a plantation which, by reason of its verdure and its vastness, is very pleasant to the sight, and is in welcome contrast to the barren hills, encircling the city. Blocks of houses for Chinese are to be erected in its place on ground that is low and swampy. Probably those who intend to reside there will not enjoy good health. Another complaint is the want of booksellers. Not one is to be found in the whole Colony. A short time ago a gentleman in the British Consular Service, a polyglot, went to Macao on a visit and wanted to buy a copy of the *Lusitad*, but could not find it!—Yours, etc.,

A RAMBLER.

News has reached Bangkok of the death of Mr. William Pugh in the Ratburi district of Siam. Mr. Pugh was a mining engineer, and was believed to be prospecting for the Ratburi Tin Mining Company. He had been resident in Siam for a year or two. His death took place on the 22nd of last month, but little seems to be known about it. The *Bangkok Times*'s information is that he had a bad attack of dysentery, and in his delirium shot himself with a rifle through the breast. When the matter was reported at Ratburi, the Governor held an investigation and came to the conclusion that it was a case of suicide. A further investigation will take place at Bangkok.

The numerous friends in Hongkong of Admiral du P. de Richelieu, the head of the Siamese Navy, will be glad to hear that he is not going to retire yet. We stated his resignation, in our issue of the 28th ult., on the strength of a report from Bangkok itself. We are very pleased to be able to announce his continuance at his post, for his retirement would be a great loss to Siam. With regard to the second part of our paragraph concerning Admiral de Richelieu on the 28th ult., it was not intended to convey that we accepted the accusation of his enemies, who failed absolutely to damage the Admiral's reputation. We gladly take the opportunity, however, to contradict the story.

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL FUND.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Amount already subscribed .. | 828,507.20 |
| H'kong Land Investment Co., Ltd. | 250 |
| Members of Police Force p. Acting Captain Superintendent .. | 231.20 |
| Staff and Boys of Queen's College p. A. J. May .. | 218.20 |
| Employees I.M. Customs p. R. R. Moorhead .. | 170 |
| Employees China Sugar Refinery p. J. M. Forbes .. | 115 |
| F. von der Pfordten .. | 100 |
| Dorabjee Nowrojee .. | 100 |
| S.P.O. p. Actg. Postmaster-General .. | 74 |
| W. Powell, Ltd. | 50 |
| Ellis Kadoorie .. | 50 |
| Holtz S. Jacob & Co. | 50 |
| Kelly & Walsh, Ltd. | 50 |
| Mutual Stores .. | 50 |
| Lau Chu Pak .. | 25 |
| She Posham .. | 10 |
| Tse Tsau Tai .. | 10 |
| W. Lysaught & Son .. | 10 |
| E. D. Sanders .. | 10 |
| A. H. Barlow .. | 10 |
| R. Edwards .. | 10 |
| H. W. Fraser .. | 10 |
| E. Deacon .. | 10 |
| H. C. Sandford .. | 5 |
| B. C. M. Johnston .. | 5 |
| G. H. Ardron .. | 5 |
| Wm. Inglis .. | 5 |
| R. E. N. Padfield .. | 5 |
| E. M. Knox .. | 5 |
| H. A. Macintyre .. | 5 |
| H. A. Courtney .. | 5 |
| L. J. C. Anderson .. | 5 |
| J. Kennedy .. | 5 |

830,170.60

Those who intend subscribing and have not yet done so will please send their subscriptions to either of the Honorary Treasurers, care of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, on or before Wednesday, the 25th inst., on which day the lists will close.

C. P. CHATER, } Hon. Treas.
T. JACKSON, }

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-eight ordinary meeting to be held at the Society's offices at noon, on Thursday, the 10th October:—

1900.—The net premium collected for the year, after deducting returns and reinsurances, amounts to \$2,982,643.94. After providing for a bonus of 20 per cent. on contributions paid in May last, there remains at credit of working account a balance of \$597,543.38 as per annexed statement. From this sum the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of \$23 per share, equivalent to 46 per cent. on the paid up capital of \$50 per share, and an addition to the reserve fund of \$75,000 raising the reserve to \$1,500,000. The balance remaining of \$292,543.38 they propose to carry forward to under-writing suspense account to close the account for the year 1900.

1901.—The position of the Society for the present year, as far as it can be ascertained, is as follows:—

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Balance of working account to the 30th June as per annexed statement .. | \$1,365,189.94 |
| Add estimate of premium to 30th September .. | 760,000.00 |
| | 2,125,189.94 |
| Estimate of losses to pay .. | 670,000.00 |
| | \$1,455,189.94 |

DIRECTORS.

Since the last general meeting Mr. H. W. Slade has joined the Board, and Mr. J. A. MacKay has resigned his seat on leaving the Colony.

In accordance with clause 86 of the Articles of Association, Mr. C. S. Sharp and Mr. G. H. Medhurst retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

R. L. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th September, 1901.

The following are the accounts and balance sheet:—

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1900. On 30th June, 1901.

| | | |
|--|----|----------------|
| Dr. | | |
| To working account, balance on 30th June, 1900 .. | \$ | 1,348,760.64 |
| To net premium from 1st July to 31st December, 1900 .. | | 1,089,424.22 |
| To interest .. | | 140,993.24 |
| | | \$2,579,178.10 |
| Cr. | | |
| By agency commissions .. | \$ | 53,043.83 |
| By head office, branches and agency charges .. | | 133,119.14 |
| By remuneration for half-year ending 31st December, 1900, to directors, committees and auditors .. | | 11,800.45 |
| By losses and claims paid .. | | 1,469,985.88 |
| By exchange .. | | 1,680.81 |
| By bonus on contributions account 1900 (declared 20th April, 1901) 20 per cent. .. | | 306,999.61 |
| By balance .. | | 597,543.38 |
| | | \$2,579,178.10 |

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1901. On 30th June, 1901.

| | | |
|--|----|----------------|
| Dr. | | |
| To net premium from 1st January to 30th June, 1901 .. | \$ | 1,911,264.09 |
| To interest .. | | 81,482.73 |
| | | \$1,992,746.82 |
| Cr. | | |
| By agency commissions .. | \$ | 53,531.87 |
| By head office, branches and agency charges .. | | 170,533.38 |
| By remuneration for half-year ending 30th June, 1901, to directors, committees and auditors .. | | 13,379.80 |
| By losses and claims paid .. | | 389,228.63 |
| By exchange .. | | 881.15 |
| By balance .. | | 1,365,189.94 |
| | | \$1,992,746.82 |

BALANCE-SHEET. On the 30th June, 1901.

| | | |
|--|----|----------------|
| Dr. | | |
| To capital 10,000 shares of \$250 each .. | \$ | 2,500,000.00 |
| To \$2,500,000 upon which \$50 per share called and paid up .. | | 500,000.00 |
| To reserve fund .. | | 1,425,000.00 |
| To unclaimed bonus and dividend .. | | 29,525.00 |
| To exchange fluctuation account .. | | 533,379.38 |
| To investment fluctuation account being the increase in market value of securities .. | | 74,750.19 |
| To working account, 1900, balance .. | | 597,543.38 |
| To working account, 1901, balance .. | | 1,365,189.94 |
| To reinsurance fund .. | | 5,809.07 |
| To underwriting suspense account .. | | 200,000.00 |
| To sundry creditors .. | | 107,699.03 |
| | | \$5,411,183.59 |
| Cr. | | |
| By cash on current account with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation .. | \$ | 129,326.12 |
| By cash on deposit with banks in Hongkong and Shanghai .. | | 487,491.11 |
| By cash invested in debentures at Hongkong and Shanghai .. | | 325,484.52 |
| By cash invested on mortgages, viz.: In Hongkong .. \$525,000.00 In Shanghai .. 907,216.48 | | 1,432,216.48 |
| By amount invested in London, viz.: Deposited in banks .. £34,500 0 0 Invested in sterling securities .. 149,126 9 10 Invested in rupee paper .. 27,650 0 0 | | 211,016 9 10 |
| (market value at date) .. | | 2,110,161.92 |
| By amount invested in Melbourne, viz.: Deposited in banks .. £ 2,000 0 0 Invested in sterling securities .. 18,796 15 0 | | 20,796 15 0 |
| (market value at date) .. | | 207,967.50 |
| By amount at debit of branches and agencies .. | | 583,724.12 |
| By bills receivable .. | | 16,665.90 |
| By sundry debtors .. | | 118,142.62 |
| | | \$5,411,183.59 |

Sterling exchange taken at 2s. 0d.

With the *Naval and Military Record* of the 15th ult., there is published an excellent supplement in the shape of a photograph of H.M.S. *Centurion*. The picture is a capital one.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 16th September.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS A. G. WISE
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

LUK LAI CHO v. KINGHORN AND MACDONALD.

This was an application for a new trial of this action for damages for breach of warranty and authority, in which Acting Chief Justice Wise, when the case first came before the Court on 26th August, gave judgment for the plaintiff, Luk Lai Cho, and allowed the question of costs, on the application of the defendant firm's counsel, to stand over till the end of the October sessions.

Mr. E. Sharp, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. S. Harston), appeared for the appellants, Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald, marine engineers, Beaconsfield Arcade, and the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings), represented the plaintiff, Luk Lai Cho, merchant, 32, Bonham Strand.

Mr. Sharp said the application was for a new trial on the ground that certain evidence on behalf of the defendants at the trial before the Court on the 26th August was tendered and rejected. Before indicating the nature of that evidence, it would be perhaps as well, he said, to briefly review the facts of the case. At the beginning of October last year, one T. H. Kingsley, then resident in Shanghai, was the owner of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39, and the defendants were his special agents for the purpose of obtaining offers for that property. Negotiations between the defendants as agents and the plaintiff began on 4th October and continued till 20th October, the day on which the agreement between the parties for the purchase of the lot by the plaintiff was made. The correspondence began on 4th October with a letter from Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald to Mr. Kingsley, in which they referred to an offer made by the plaintiff for the purchase of the land.

Acting Chief Justice—Is it necessary for us to know the contents of the correspondence? The application is one for a new trial.

Mr. Sharp replied that he thought it likely that his Lordship did not quite grasp the facts of the case at the first hearing, and for that reason it might be better that the Court should now hear the contents of the correspondence.

Acting Chief Justice—I went on your own pleadings.

Mr. Sharp said the pleadings might perhaps have dealt insufficiently with the facts.

Acting Chief Justice—You cannot go back on your own pleadings.

After further discussion Mr. Sharp said the correspondence was material as indicating exactly the facts of the case.

Acting Puisne Judge—I don't think it is necessary at all.

Referring to the terms of the contract entered into between the parties for the purchase of the land—that confirmation by Mr. Kingsley was necessary before the purchase could be completed, the Acting Chief Justice said the words in a note from the defendants to the plaintiff, "now in a position to accept your offer definitely" appeared to convey absolutely that confirmation had arrived.

Mr. Sharp suggested that the pleadings be amended, but Mr. Pollock said the suggestion came altogether too late, judgment already having been delivered. There was, he submitted, no case in which any amendment of the pleadings had been granted after judgment.

Acting Chief Justice—I may state at once, Mr. Sharp, that if I could see my way to grant the amendment I would do so.

Mr. Sharp said he did not ask their Lordships to amend the pleadings or to introduce any new item, but to put on the words the construction which was intended. He contended that the word "prior" in the defendants' answers included "up to and at the time of."

Their Lordships eventually decided to grant the application for a new trial and to allow the amendment in the defendants' pleadings, defendants to pay all costs attached to the present proceedings.

Wednesday, 18th September.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

Tam Cheung and Chan King pleaded not guilty to robbery with violence.

The following jury was empanelled:—E. Gibson, A. A. H. Milroy, H. Murray Bain, O. Ellis, G. R. Edwards, W. T. Shewan, and F. de Paula Barros.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Acting Attorney-General, in detailing the case to the jury, said the prisoners were charged upon one count, that together they committed a robbery upon the prosecutrix, a widow named Wong Ho, residing at 17, Hollywood Road, and robbed from her the sum of \$10 and various articles of jewellery. On the 10th July, at ten minutes to eleven in the morning, the prosecutrix and her two daughters, one aged eight years and the other four years, were in the sitting-room on the second floor. Someone rang the bell, and the elder daughter went to the door and asked who was there. A voice replied *Chap lau* (stop leak), and the girl thereupon opened the door and admitted a man wearing a grey jacket, whom the prosecutrix had identified as being the first prisoner. Along with and following close on the first prisoner were two other men, one of whom was later identified by the prosecutrix as being the second prisoner. The third man, the one not now in custody, opened a door leading up to the roof, and ascended thereto. The first prisoner squatted down and went through some performance as if he were mixing cement. The prosecutrix entered the back cubicle, and pointed out to the second prisoner, who had followed her, some leaks she wanted filled. The second prisoner suddenly turned upon the prosecutrix and struck her with his left hand, knocking her down. She called out "Save life," and the second prisoner pressed her head down and held her by the throat. The first prisoner then entered and seized the prosecutrix by the hand, and took a pair of bangles off her right arm. He then tried in a similar way to snatch the bangles off her left arm, but she told the men that if they would let her get up she would give them the bangles. They allowed her to rise, and the first prisoner took the pair of bangles off her left arm. The first prisoner then made the prosecutrix accompany him into her sleeping room, and searched there. Inside a drawer he found a money box belonging to the two daughters of the prosecutrix. The second prisoner took the box into the back cubicle and emptied the few cents it contained into his pocket. The first prisoner conducted the prosecutrix into the sitting-room, and asked her to open a chest of drawers, which was locked. She at first refused, and the man pointed a revolver at her. Then, being put in fear, the prosecutrix opened the chest of drawers, and the first prisoner took out a tin cash box, locked. He again pointed the revolver at the woman, and made her take out a key which opened the box. Inside the cash box were two five-dollar bank notes and some articles of jewellery, of all of which the first prisoner possessed himself. Being informed by the prosecutrix that there was nothing more in the house, the first prisoner produced a gag—a piece of wood with tape attached—and wanted to tie it over the woman's mouth. She begged him not to do so, and, pointing the revolver at her, he said—"If you hawl out I will shoot you to death." He also said—"If you will not call out I will not shoot you. Go into the cubicle," and he pushed the prosecutrix and her two daughters into a corner and left the house. In the meantime, apparently, the second prisoner and the other man had gone; at all events the prosecutrix saw nothing of them after the first prisoner left. Information was given to the police by the prosecutrix, and, later, she picked out the two prisoners from amongst a crowd of others at the Central Station. In connection with that identification, it was an important fact, said Mr. Pollock, that the occasion of the robbery was not the first time that the prosecutrix had seen these men. Three or four days before the robbery she noticed the first prisoner on the roof at

the back of her house. With regard to the second prisoner, according to the prosecutrix, on 1st June, some five or six weeks before the robbery, he came to her house and whitewashed it. On that occasion he was three or four hours in the house, and on the night before the robbery he again did some whitewashing.

Evidence having been led, the jury, without leaving the box, unanimously found both prisoners guilty, and they were sentenced to three years' hard labour each.

ANOTHER ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

Chun Cheung pleaded not guilty to a charge of robbery by two or more persons. The jury was the same.

Mr. Pollock said the robbery, an armed one, took place on 30th August at Homunteen, a small village on the Kowloon Peninsula. At seven o'clock on the evening of 30th August, the prosecutor, Liu Tsin, and his wife, Chan Kwai, with their two small children and a *foki*, were having their evening meal when a man came up to Liu Tsin and said—"Ah Tsin, brother, how are you?" The prosecutor replied—"I am not very well." The man then threw some pepper in the eyes of the prosecutor, and when the latter was thus rendered helpless he tied his two hands behind him with some twine. The man also gagged the prosecutor. Four other men were working in concert with the first man, because five entered the house. Three were armed with choppers, and they struck the prosecutor on the shoulder and demanded his money. He told them he had none, and they ransacked the house and took away various articles of property belonging to the prosecutor and his wife. It further appeared that not only was the prosecutor bound and gagged, but so also was his wife, who was dragged into the kitchen and had taken from her arms a pair of jadestone bangles. The prosecutor was struck on the side of the face with choppers, but was not seriously hurt. Of the five robbers he was able to identify the prisoner in the dock. His wife, however, who was very probably frightened, and who had also had pepper thrown in her eyes, was unable to identify any of the robbers. On 31st August, the day following the robbery, a man called at a pawnshop in Queen's Road and pledged a pair of trousers, since identified by the prosecutor as his property. The man who pledged the trousers was not the prisoner, but next day the latter called with the pawn ticket to redeem the trousers. Information of the robbery had been conveyed to the police, who issued a warning to pawnbrokers to be on the alert. The trousers tallying with the description supplied by the police of the stolen goods, the accountant of the shop detained the prisoner until a policeman arrived, when he was arrested and taken to the station.

The prosecutor and his wife gave evidence, and were followed by the accountant at the pawnshop, the *lukong* who arrested the prisoner, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police Badeley, and a sergeant-interpreter at the Central Police Station.

In summing up, his Lordship said that although there undoubtedly had been a robbery, it appeared to him that the circumstances had been exaggerated.

Having regard to the unsatisfactory nature of the evidence, by a majority of six to one the jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.

ARMED ROBBERY.

The third and last case on the calendar was similar in effect to the two preceding cases. Chung Fui, lately a servant boy, was charged (1) with having on 18th August stolen one silver watch and chain, the property of one Mok Sui Hung, and (2) being armed with an offensive weapon, to wit, a revolver, did on 18th August feloniously and violently carry away three silver watches, the property of the said Mok Sui Hung. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—J. A. V. Ribeiro, E. Ezra, F. J. Rupprecht, A. F. Luz, F. D. Barretto, F. M. F. da Luz, and T. Hunter.

Mr. Pollock said the prosecutor was a dealer in watches and clocks at 14, Bonham Strand. On 18th August, at half-past nine in the evening, the defendant came into the shop and said he wanted to buy a watch and chain.

The prosecutor showed him a selection, and the defendant agreed to buy a watch and chain for \$7.50. He put them in his pocket, and asked to be shown some others. The prosecutor laid three watches on the table, and the defendant then turned to the prosecutor's *foki*, who was in the shop, and asked him to fetch a glass of water. The *foki* departed to get the water, and the defendant picked up the three watches with his left hand and pulled a six-chambered revolver out of his pocket with his right. He pointed the weapon at the prosecutor, and said—"Will you give me these watches, and some more?" The prosecutor replied—"Let it be as they are." The *foki* just then re-entered the shop, and, taking in the situation, sprang at the defendant and seized the hand holding the revolver. The prosecutor, running from behind the counter, caught the defendant by the queue, and a struggle ensued. Seeing the predicament he was in, the defendant knocked a burning lamp from the counter and set fire to a wooden box near the safe. The prosecutor and the *foki* got him on the ground, and the former cried out "Fire" and "Snatch things." A Chinese constable came in, and, after blowing his whistle, put his arms round the defendant and held him prisoner. A Sikh constable also arrived, and took the revolver from the defendant. He examined it, and found that it was loaded. The fire in the shop was extinguished and the defendant was taken to the Police Station. It was not a case of a man trying to joke, said Mr. Pollock, picking up the revolver and handling it, because the revolver was loaded.

His Lordship—It is not loaded now, is it?

Mr. Pollock—No, my Lord.

His Lordship—The reason I ask is that all the time you are flourishing it you are pointing it straight at me.

Mr. Pollock said it was loaded in six chambers, but the cartridges had been extracted. The defendant's story at the Police Court was that he went into the shop intending to buy a watch and chain, but found he had not enough money. The master of the shop and the *foki* then set upon him, and the former upset the lamp with his elbow. The revolver, added Mr. Pollock, belonged to an officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who would be called to prove that the defendant, whilst employed at the barracks, stole the weapon.

Stanley Jones, second lieutenant, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, deposed that the defendant was formerly his boy, and was in his service up till the 18th of last month. On the 19th witness saw him at the Police Court, where he was charged with stealing the revolver. It was part of the defendant's duty to clean the weapon. Witness had no cartridges, and the defendant might have obtained the cartridges in the barracks, or have bought them.

His Lordship—Is that a service revolver?

Witness—Yes, sir.

Mr. Pollock—Are these cartridges (produced) ordinary service cartridges?

Witness—They are.

Other evidence was led, and the jury, without leaving the box, unanimously found the prisoner guilty on both counts of the indictment.

Asked if he had anything to say in his defence, the prisoner repeated the story he told at the Police Court.

His Lordship (to interpreter)—Tell him that the point he has to explain to the jury is how he came to have a loaded revolver in his possession.

The prisoner said he went to show the revolver to a friend, but found him not at home. On the way back he went into the shop to buy a watch and chain. The revolver dropped out of his pocket when the prosecutor and his *foki* set upon him.

His Lordship—Is anything known about him? I mean to say he is a daring-looking boy; he is smiling all the time. I don't think he is at all a repentant sinner.

Mr. Pollock—I am instructed that the prisoner is already undergoing a sentence of two months' imprisonment for stealing the revolver. I understand he was sentenced on the 19th of August.

In reply to a question as to whether he had anything further to say, the prisoner said he would leave the matter to his Lordship's discretion.

He was sentenced to one year's hard labour on the first count and to three years on the second—the sentences to be consecutive.
This concluded the Sessions.

SPORTING AND OTHER NOTES.

At the annual meeting of the Cricket Club the President went into the accounts very fully, and also explained what arrangements had been made for entertaining our visitors during the coming week. It appears that only \$450 was spent in tiffins, and some \$200 or so in tea and cake—tea and cake being supplied to all members free as well as to their lady friends! Well, all I can say is that a great deal of money is spent on free refreshments, and as members can't both eat their cake and keep it, this \$650 (which means the little and only profit the Club makes on the year's working, for \$4,000), and, I am told, \$1,500 worth of gear were brought forward from the previous season) might be put to much better use by setting it aside for the much needed Pavilion. The present barn has no upper story from which members and their friends can view a match, and a tent has always to be put up. In the coming week, as the tent is not large enough for spectators, a matched or other unsightly erection will have to be built; this, however, will show members and our visitors the need of a new and more commodious building and emphasise the inadequate arrangements and capacity of our present barn.

Among other points touched upon, the President begged the members and the public not to spoil the ground by making tracks across it, or in other words not to take a bee-line from one gate to another; hoped members who could put up visitors would come forward and offer to do so; trusted that members would subscribe liberally to the entertainment fund and thus save drawing on the Club funds (which, as some member said, would mean a still further delay in the building of a new pavilion); would be glad if some member of the Club would present another Championship Cup for lawn tennis (the last, which I am told was presented by Mr. D. E. Brown, having been won outright by Pinckney); and finally stated that it was not a team from the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club only that was to play in the forthcoming Cricket Week but a team from all Hongkong, and that if the names of any good or likely cricketers were sent in they would be given a trial.

The Hon. Secretary is to be congratulated on the state of the ground generally, and of the pitch particularly: the turf has been treated as turf and has not, as in some past seasons, been allowed to run to grass, but it is a pity that the whole ground has not been regularly cut as close as the pitch. If this had been done the turf would be much finer and would also stand much more wear. As a well-known writer on cricket says:—"Coarse grass makes a very poor ground—to keep turf in order incessant rolling and mowing are necessary throughout the Summer and early Spring." If the turf at home requires, as it does, cutting three or four days a week through the Summer and early Spring, how necessary it must be to keep it constantly and closely cut through our hot and wet season.

It has more than once struck me while watching the polo in Hongkong that some of the ponies are over the usual height of polo ponies. The standard height in Hongkong is 14.2, but I am sure some that I have seen playing must be very nearly 15 hands. The reason for this was explained to me the other day, and it shows that what I had surmised was probably correct. The explanation given was that the practice in vogue here in measuring a pony was to allow fractions of an inch to count in favour of the pony, that is to say, that a pony measuring just under 14.3 would pass as a 14.2 pony. Now this is a most extraordinary way of measuring, besides militating against the best interests of the game. What chance has a man on a 14-hand pony against a man on a 14.3? Every fraction of an inch you get above 14.2 is getting nearer a horse. This is in a sense apparent, but what I mean is that there is more difference between a 14.3 and a 14.2 than there is between a 14.2 and a 14.1 pony. You may

say the measuring must be done in the way it is, or there wouldn't be enough ponies to make a game very often. Quite so; by all means let a 15-hand animal play to make one more, but don't do it, I say, by adopting a method of measuring that isn't used anywhere else.

The rule as regards measuring usually is that "fractions of an inch count against the horse so far as class is concerned, but in his favour where weight is concerned." The rule in Hongkong is apparently "fractions of an inch count in favour of the horse so far as class is concerned," which makes just a bit of difference. If we were to issue a challenge to Shanghai or Singapore to play them at polo and they accepted and came here and found our 14.2 meant 14.3 what a rumpus there would be! I hear this system of measuring is the same in racing, which is, if possible, even more extraordinary.

Snipe are getting a bit scarcer, and I hear of bags of 25 and 27 couple last week and on Sunday of 22, 20, 15, 15, 16, 8, and sundry small bags of 5 couple downwards. The total bag last Sunday must have reached 150 to 180 couple.

VETERAN.

BOXING.

McAULIFFE AND BENTLEY.

In reference to the challenge by S. Bentley of the Torpedo Depot, to box Jack McAuliffe for the best of fifteen rounds, McAuliffe to weigh in at 9st. 10lbs. and Bentley to be at catch-weights, Mr. McAuliffe has asked us to state that, with regard to Mr. Bentley's letter in the *China Mail* of the 14th inst., he did not specify 10st. as the weight of any who might take up the challenge issued by him on the occasion of the recent boxing entertainment in the City Hall. The men may be any weight they please. Mr. McAuliffe's challenge was meant for Privates Whitney, Deegan, and Smart, S. Bentley, and Monk. The three soldiers and Monk, Mr. McAuliffe says, contracted with him to give exhibition spars at the City Hall on the evening of the 7th inst., but did not fulfil their contract. If Bentley can get these four to join him, McAuliffe is willing to give them \$50 each if he cannot stop each and every one in six rounds. The men, however, must deposit \$50 each as a guarantee that they will enter the ring, and when they have done this, the money will be returned to them. If each man is knocked out in six rounds he loses nothing, and if he can stand up against McAuliffe for six rounds he gains \$50. As to Bentley's challenge to a fifteen round contest, McAuliffe does not think that Bentley's reputation as a fighter is such as to persuade him (McAuliffe) to enter the ring without a side wager of at least \$5,000, and if Bentley's friends will put up that sum McAuliffe will take him on.

Messrs. McAuliffe and Slavin left on the 16th for Shanghai, but will return here should the above terms be found acceptable.

A letter from Mr. Bentley referring to the above challenge will be found in another column.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The following is the report of the above Club for the season 1900-1901:—

The account shows a balance of \$94.53 to the credit of the Club on August 31, 1901.

Considerable expense was incurred in repairing the Club matshed, which was blown down twice by typhoons early in the season.

A large number of interesting and closely contested matches was played under Association and Rugby rules, and the form shown by the players was, if anything, better than that of previous years.

The six-a-side Challenge Cup was won by Mr. A. R. Lowe's team. Mr. W. H. Howard kindly presented six medals to the winning team.

The Club team was defeated in the third round of the Shield Competition by "H" Company, R.W.F., by 3 goals to 1.

Seventeen teams entered for the Shield Competition, which was won by the Siege Train Football Club.

The Shield Fund shows a balance of \$48.21.

The Club now consists of 245 members.

During the year, 41 new members were elected.

The seventh annual dinner took place at the Hongkong Hotel on the 6th April last, and 24 members were present.

The annual general meeting for the purpose of receiving committee's report on the past season and for electing the committee and officers for the forthcoming season will be held in the Cricket Pavilion on Thursday, September 26th next, at five o'clock.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"C" CO.

The September shoot of the above Company for the "Gubbay" and "Keswick" Cups was held at Sai Hang on the 14th and 15th instant, and resulted in Gunner H. Gidley retaining the "Gubbay" Cup, while Sergeant Sherwin was top for the "Keswick" aggregate with 95. The latter cup is shot for kneeling at 200 yards. Highest scores were:—

| | 200 | 400 | 500 | H'cap. | TL |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| *Gunner H. Gidley | 24 | 33 | 29 | 16 | 102 |
| *Sergeant Sherwin | 29 | 28 | 30 | 13 | 100 |
| Sergeant Terrill | 26 | 15 | 23 | 25 | 89 |
| Sergeant Bevan | 24 | 25 | 13 | 25 | 87 |
| Bomb. Shoolbred | 27 | 31 | 24 | 4 | 86 |
| Bomb. Berkley | 20 | 21 | 17 | 25 | 83 |

* Spoon winners.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST SEPTEMBER.

| | 1900. | 1901. |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Below overflow. | Below overflow. |
| Tytam | 0 ft. 7 in. | 3 ft. 6 in. |
| | | Above overflow. |
| Pokfulam | 0 ft. 2 in. | 1 ft. 8 in. |
| | | Below overflow. |
| Wongnaicheong | 1 ft. 8 in. | 20 ft. 1 in. |
| | STORAGE GALLONS. | |
| | 1900. | 1901. |
| Tytam | 379,900,000 | 315,670,000 |
| Pokfulam | 65,640,000 | 69,640,000 |
| Wongnaicheong | 28,236,000 | 9,780,000 |

Total 473,776,000 395,090,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1900.

| | 1900. | 1901. |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| Consumption | 132,070,000 | 119,529,000 gallons |
| Estimated population | 207,500 | 213,500 |
| Consumption per head per day | 20.5 | 18.5 gallons |
| CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. | | |
| | 1900. | 1901. |
| Consumption | 10,781,000 | 11,000,000 gallons |
| Estimated population | 28,400 | 37,100 |
| Consumption per head per day | 12.2 | 9.5 gallons |

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM.
Water Authority.

Natalio Valenzia, first lieutenant in the Philippines insurgent army, will have to pay the extreme penalty of the law for having ordered the murder of two inoffensive American prisoners, and ordered his soldiers to dip their hands in their victim's blood and drink it. It appears that in spite of the boasted civilisation of the Filipinos, they have not yet passed the barbaric period.

At the Singapore Assizes on the 9th inst., Laura, the Italian seaman of the s.s. *Benmohr*, who was charged with fatally stabbing Mr. R. W. Jones, the second officer of that vessel, was found guilty of causing grievous hurt under grave and sudden provocation. Judgment was reserved till the morning of the 10th when accused was sentenced to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment. Laura asked that the sentence should count from the day he was arrested, but this was refused. Laura appears to have got off lightly, judging from the evidence reported in the Singapore papers.

MOHAMMEDAN WEDDING IN HONGKONG.

The residents of Hongkong living along the route from Queen's Road East to Hollywood Road near Old Bailey Street, had the opportunity to witness a pretty and to them somewhat novel spectacle on the 14th inst., viz., a Mohammedan wedding procession. Abdul Karreem of the Naval Yard clerical staff, son of Sheikh Abbas, a Government pensioner, and a well-known resident for many years in this Colony, was married to Miss Sherazee, the daughter of the late broker Mr. A. Sherzee. As most of our readers have probably never witnessed such a ceremony, the following details may be of interest:—

The bridegroom just before setting out on his way to the bride's house is dressed in an appropriate costume by a near relative. He first dons a white flowing robe, white trousers, and a gold-cloth waistcoat (*sudaria*). Then he is taken to the room where all his friends are assembled, and has to put on a long dress coat (*saya*); next comes an enormous silk cummerbund, and the dagger called *chur*, and then the outer cloak, and finally the gold-cloth turban with a fringe of flowers, called *sera*. All the clothing is of fine cloth or silk, heavily embroidered. In the meanwhile a similar but of course more intricate ceremony takes place at the bride's house.

The bridegroom, when dressed, makes his way to his parents' or guardians' room, pays his respects, and receives their blessing and a plentiful sprinkling of rosewater. That over, he mounts a charger (on 14th inst. represented by a Chinese pony), and surrounded by a cavalcade of friends similarly mounted, on foot or, as on 14th inst., in rickshas, and accompanied by lantern-bearers, makes his way to the bride's house. He enters the room and is seated next to the priest, on the ground, on a white cloth, with two candle-lights in large glass globes before them, and flowers all around.

Presently, the father of the bride, or his representative and two witnesses approach the priest, and on behalf of the bride—who is invisible all this time—make an affirmative statement as to her willingness to marry. This done, the priest grasps the bridegroom's left hand holds it thus while going through the marriage formula then, releasing his hand, he reads the marriage prayer. This concluded, the bridegroom, accompanied by all his male friends, makes his way to the bride's room the door of which is locked. He knocks and requests her to let him in. She or her women refuse at first, and makes all sorts of extortionate demands, until at last the bride yields, the door is opened, and all enter. The husband greets his wife, and after a few exchanges of courtesy leaves her to go to his own house. As soon as he has left the bride prepares to follow in a chair. Arriving at her future home, she is escorted by the bridegroom to the assembly room and both take seats in the "chairs of state," placed for the purpose. This ends the ceremony, and a very pretty and unique one it is.

On the 6th inst. at Singapore, Acting Police Inspector P. McNamara (who was arrested in Hongkong, it will be remembered) was brought up on a charge of desertion from the force by having unlawfully absented himself from duty on the 26th of July last, with the intention of not returning to the same. The defendant was undefended and entered a plea of guilty. On being asked if he had anything to say, he said that about the time he absented himself he was in great trouble of mind owing to having received bad news of his family at home, and this caused him to give way to drink. He had no intention to desert. He was the only support of his mother and three sisters. He had served the Government in the Army and Police for fourteen years. During the whole time he had been in the force he had never been an hour absent from duty. He added that he was an acting inspector, and it was a very unlikely thing that a man in his senses would throw up such a post. Mr. Cuscaden, Acting Inspector General of Police, said he did not wish to press the case. He wished for a light penalty—merely as an example. The defendant was sentenced to a month's simple imprisonment.

HONGKONG.

The appointment is notified in the *Gazette* of Dr. W. W. Pearse as Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

H. M. Roxas, the Filipino musician who some time ago stabbed Miss Zarza in the abdomen, was called on the 17th inst. before Mr. Kemp, Acting Police Magistrate, to answer to the charge, but the case after a short preliminary hearing was remanded.

A collision took place on 17th inst. at about 7 p.m. off the "Star" Ferry Wharf between the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank launch *Way-foong* and a steam pinnace from the U.S. monitor *Monterey*. The latter was sunk, but no lives were lost. It was raised again on Friday.

Under the auspices of the Hongkong Mission to Seamen a concert was given on Tuesday evening by Members of St. John's Cathedral Choir, in the Institute, Kowloon. Misses Chunyut and Leykum and Messrs. Cunningham, Auld, Hay and Coster submitted a very good programme.

The *L. & C. Express* of the 18th ult. says:—The important question of the Hongkong Dockyard was dealt with in a somewhat casual manner in a debate on the Naval Works Bill in the House of Commons. It was elicited that it is not to be transferred to the mainland, there being strong strategical objection to such a change, which those who are conversant with Hongkong will not fail to appreciate.

Forging ten-dollar bank-notes seems to have become a regular industry in Hongkong. A Chinese pledged some clothing at a pawnshop for \$2, and then sent a compatriot with a forged ten-dollar bill of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to redeem the pledged articles. The pawnbroker, a shrewd man of business, detected the forgery and handed the emissary of the forger over to the police. Both are now in custody.

As the result of arguments in Chambers, on the application that His Lordship should not award costs to the Hon. F. H. May, the defendant in the recent Habeas Corpus case, on the ground that he (defendant) was responsible for the trouble by his refusal to give plaintiff's solicitors a copy of the order of detainer. His Honour T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Judge J. C., has refused the application. The judgement therefore remains as delivered.

During the 48 hours ending at noon on the 16th inst., there was reported a fresh European case of plague, ending in death. The victim was Master Stanley W. B. Ford, the eleven-year old son of Inspector Ford of No. 8 Police Station, who succumbed to the disease at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon at the Government Civil Hospital. The funeral took place on the 15th. One fatal case of plague (Chinese) has since been reported.

We are requested to state that the Officer Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers desires to thank the public for so generously supporting the Tattoo on the 4th inst., in aid of the widow of the late Armourer-Sergeant Williams. The sum of \$1,425.13 has been cleared after paying expenses amounting to \$347.22. In addition to the above, further sums have been contributed, making a total of \$2,845.64 up to date from various sources, soldiers and civilians.

At the offices of the Public Works department on 16th inst. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by public auction two lots of Crown land—Hunghom Inland Lot No. 242 and Inland Lot No. 1,393. The former was disposed of for \$252—\$20 above upset, and was purchased by Pang Wing Kee, the owner of the adjoining lot, for extension purposes. The remaining lot was purchased by Kang On (who proposes erecting sawmills thereon) for \$10,474—also \$20 above the upset price.

We regret to announce the death through enteric fever of P. C. Bird, No. 119, at 11.30 p.m., on 15th inst. Deceased had been in the force for about nineteen months, and proved himself a conscientious and hard-working officer, while his unfailing good nature gained for him numerous friends. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, and was largely attended by police officers, under Acting Chief Inspector Kemp, and civilian friends of deceased. The many floral offerings showed the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

The winter term of the German School Association commences on the 1st October.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H. E. the Governor has been pleased to accept the resignation of Lieut. G. L. Duncan, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

A cricket match was played on the 14th inst. at Happy Valley between H. W. Naval Yard C. C. and the Army Ordnance C. C. The latter won by 99 runs to 65.

A match near the Tram Station at the Peak was burned down on the 19th inst., but the damage was trifling. The flames were plainly visible from the city level.

The cricket ground was opened on the 21st inst. The first match of the season will take place on the 28th inst., under the title of XI v. XXII, and the following week the Club will play all-comers.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 313 non-Chinese and 88 Chinese visited the former, and 57 non-Chinese and 1,649 Chinese the latter institution.

Lieut. A. Blake, A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor, having obtained a month's leave, Capt. W. L. Warren, R.G.A., Private Secretary to H.E., will for the time being undertake the duties of A.D.C. also.

By the *Hamburg* on the 18th inst. there returned to the Colony Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Postmaster-General, and Mrs. Hastings. Commander Hastings resumed his duties on the 19th inst.

It is reported that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. U. V. Ladds, has resigned his post. Mr. Ladds has suffered much from illness lately, but it is to be hoped that his decision is not final, for he has done excellent service in the Colony.

H.E. the Governor has written to the Bishop of Victoria to inform him that he has transmitted the petition, praying for the establishment of a school for Europeans only, to the Secretary of State, and has recommended the proposals it contains.

The return of stamp revenue during the months of August, 1900 and 1901, shows a decrease for the latter month of \$8,608.56. Under the heading of Probate, or Letters of Administration, alone the decrease is \$6,874.00, while Conveyance or Assignment shows a drop of \$3,429.00. The main increases are in Transfer of Shares, \$1,398.90; Charter Party, \$532.70; and Bill of Lading, \$527.60.

In consequence of the lamented death of the late President of the United States of America and the general mourning ordered, the Gymkhana fixed for the 21st inst. has been postponed until the 28th September. It is unfortunate that the fixture will clash with the opening match of the Hongkong Cricket Club, the Hon. Secretary states, but this is unavoidable, inasmuch as the Race-course will not be available after that date.

Fifteen woodcutters crowded into a small boat to cross from the mainland at Capsuimoon to the island of Lantau, with the result that the craft capsized and threw the occupants into the water. Five of them were drowned, but the others clung to the overturned boat and succeeded in reaching the shore. The bodies of those who were drowned have not been recovered, and were probably carried out to sea by the strong current which always runs at the place.

A scratch race for four-oared boats will be run over the regatta course at 5.15 on 9th November next. The following crews will compete:—Boat and Station No. 1.—A. E. Katsch, C. Sherrington, J. Plummer, G. R. Stevens, H. M. Tibbey (cox). Boat and Station No. 2.—H. W. Kennett, J. V. Bennett, W. J. Whiley, H. Hursthouse, S. Seth (cox). Boat and Station No. 3.—E. W. Carpenter, W. Heckford, H. L. Bingay, J. O. Hughes, F. White (cox).

In our report of the case in the Land Court on the 13th inst. we omitted the last two paragraphs of Mr. Rennie's evidence. They were as follows:—Witness had spent some money on the island which for grazing purposes he valued at \$10,000, for any special purpose more. He had never had an offer for the island. He could not fix and never had named a price for the island. By the Court—As far as he knew the island is not required as a fort. He had never heard so, and he had not seen it in the local papers.

M. R. Réau is now in charge of the French Consulate at Hongkong.

Quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong is now removed at Weihaiwei.

On Friday the French flagship *Amiral Charner* arrived from the Pescadores.

The Italian cruiser *Stromboli* left for Italy on the 13th inst.

The French cruiser *Guichen* left on the 14th inst. for France. On the 15th inst. the U.S. monitor *Monterey* arrived from Canton.

The British transport *Rajah* arrived on the 16th inst. from Shanghai.

On the 17th inst. the British transport *Uganda* arrived from Taku.

On the 18th inst. the British transport *Rajah* left for Calcutta, and the German gunboat *Illis* arrived from Canton. The hospital-ship *Carthage* arrived on the 17th inst. from Calcutta, and left again on the 19th for Taku.

On the 19th inst. the British transports *Uganda* and *Sumatra* left for Calcutta.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Harmston's Circus is now performing in Java, where it has met with a warm reception.

The first American bank to be started in the Philippines will open for business on the 26th inst.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Captain R. W. White, to the *Ocean*, to date 29th August.

The British residents of North Formosa, including naturalised Chinese, have forwarded a subscription amounting to £12. 10s. to the Lord Mayor of London for the Queen Victoria Memorial Fund.

The local authorities have received information from the Portuguese Government that the plague at Macao is considered over and that the normal sanitary conditions of the city being totally restored, all especial measures taken at Macao against the plague have now been suspended.

In the recent interport match between the Foochow and Shanghai Gun Clubs, the former won the cup by 5 points, grasping 72 birds against Shanghai's 67. The Ballistite Cup presented by Messrs. Nobel, was shot for by the members of the Shanghai Gun Club on the 8th inst. and won by Mr. W. N. Fleming.

The *Malay Mail* says:—There seems to be no progress with the mooted scheme for the registration of domestic servants in Selangor. The great bulk of these people being Chinese, any registration would have to be done through the Chinese Protectorate, and it is an open secret that Mr. Pare is opposed to any such scheme.

A marriage will shortly take place, between the Rev. Roland Allen, chaplain to the Bishop of North China, youngest son of the late Rev. Charles Fletcher Allen and author of *The Siege of the Peking Legations* lately reviewed in these columns, and Mary Beatrice, elder daughter of the late Admiral Sir John Walter Tarleton, K.C.B.

The expenditure of the French Laos for the current year is estimated at \$758,640. Of that sum \$525,000 will be provided from the general budget of Indo-China. Of the balance, \$143,400 will come from direct taxation and \$90,260 from the various customs and other dues. The royal treasury of Luang Prabang pays \$12,000 for the maintenance of the militia, half the cost of the school and hospital at Luang Prabang, and half the amount by which its receipts exceed its expenditure.

A Hamburg correspondent has had a long talk with two officers of Count von Waldersee's staff, just after their return from China. Both were enthusiastic in praise of the English troops in China, and were of opinion that our men are wonderfully disciplined and useful to any emergency. One officer said: "Your Tommy Atkins is always a gentleman and a man of the world. I never imagined such good feeling between officers and men was possible." The German officers seemed most impressed by the fine British artillery work, the genuine patriotism of the Indian troops, and the extraordinary hardness of the naval brigade. "We are only amateurs at the game," said one, "and we are obliged to drill like children." Great cordiality, the Germans state, existed between the English and German troops.

Dr. Davidson has taken up the appointment of Port Health Officer at Singapore.

The Marquis Ito was expected to leave Japan on a visit to the United States on the 18th inst.

The agitation in favour of reorganisation of the police force is being carried on energetically in Tonkin.

Capt. Sir Boucher Wrey, of H.M.S. *Brisk*, who left for home by the *Princess Irene* a fortnight ago, is understood to have retired from the Navy. Capt. Martin is now in command of the *Brisk*.

Mlle. Hélène Doumer, daughter of the Governor-General of French Indo-China, was married to M. Pierre Emery, of the Indo-Chinese Civil Service, at Cap St. James, on the 7th inst.

The Corporation of Portsmouth has banquetted Admiral Seymour, officers and crew of H. M. S. *Centurion*. The guests included the Earl of Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty.

We notice that the *New American* has again changed hands. It is now called the *Manila American*, and apparently has been taken over by its present editor and subeditor from the company that bought it about six months ago. This is about the seventh time this paper has changed hands, and the third alteration of name.

A telegram has been received by the Hongkong Government from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Simla, stating that 171 cases and 137 deaths from plague were reported at Broach Port, Bombay Presidency, between the 13th August and 12th September last.

Since the arrival in British North Borneo of Mr. Birch as Governor, great interest in sports has arisen, it is said, especially among the younger officers of the Company. Sandakan bids fair to turn out really good teams at cricket and football, while Labuan with fewer inhabitants is trying its best to follow in its wake.

It is rumoured that there will be a Central F. M. S. Audit Office, having its head quarters in Kuala Lumpur. The office will consist of a large staff, selected from the various Audit Offices in the Federated Malay States. It is also reported that this Central Audit Office will be under the supervision of the Federal Accountant and Auditor.

Iba Sotaro, the murderer of Mr. Hoshi Toru, has been sentenced to imprisonment for life for the crime. Iba Sotaro was himself desirous of having the death sentence passed upon him, but whether he will take the unprecedented course of appealing for a heavier sentence, or whether the Higher Court would accept such appeal, is very doubtful.

Mr. N. Ruchwaldy, the Manager of the Robinson Piano Company's office in Raffles Place, Singapore, committed suicide in the premises of the Company on the 11th inst. It appears that, early in the afternoon, Mr. Ruchwaldy, who had moved into rooms over the business premises a few days before and was living there with his wife, was missed for some time, and it was found that the door of a small bath-room on the premises was locked on the inside. Mr. Robinson, who had just recently come down to Singapore in connection with the business of the Singapore branch, was sent for and he called in a policeman. The door was burst open, and the deceased was found hanging by an inch rope from a cross-bar near the window. He was quite dead and had been dead for a couple of hours, the cause of death being strangulation by hanging. The deceased was cut down and a doctor was sent for, but his services were of course useless. The body was taken later in the evening to the mortuary of the General Hospital, where an inquest was held. A verdict of suicide by hanging was given. The deceased was married a short time back, and much sympathy is felt in Singapore for his wife. A local journal says:—"It is generally known amongst the friends of the deceased that for some time back Mr. Ruchwaldy had been in negotiation with the proprietor for the taking over of the Singapore branch, but owing to an apparent impossibility of arriving at satisfactory terms, Mr. Ruchwaldy had been greatly disappointed, and it is here that the real motive of this sad suicide is to be looked for."

The French Municipal Council at Shanghai has decided to introduce tramways in the French Settlement.

The *Pioneer* suggests that Mr. Donald Smeaton is the probable Lieutenant-Governor of Burma when Sir Frederic Fryer retires in May, but no announcement is likely to be made till after the Viceroy's tour.

Mr. R. T. Reid, one of the best cricketers in Singapore, left for home on long leave in the German mail steamer *Princess Irene*. His departure from Singapore is mourned as a great loss to the Straits team that is coming up to Hongkong.

At the American Consular Court, Shanghai, on the 10th inst. before John Goodnow, Esq., U. S. Consul-General (Acting Judicially), Ernest Horwitz was brought before the Court on a charge of having embezzled \$600 in Hongkong. Defendant had been arrested on a British Consular warrant. No one appeared to prosecute, the duty of the Shanghai police having concluded with the arrest of the accused. His Honour dismissed the case, as there was no prosecution and no complaint had been filed.

In the House of Commons on the 14th ult., during the discussion on the second reading of the Naval Works Bill, Mr. Pretyman said that the three great foreign stations which were now proposed to be dealt with were Gibraltar, Malta and Hongkong, at each of which places a large expenditure was proposed in order to maintain the large storage necessary. As to Hongkong, a very great difficulty arose on the outbreak of the recent trouble in China owing to there being an insufficient store of coal. It was proposed to erect coal appliances and a station on the mainland of Kowloon in the situation suggested by the Colony for the extension of the dockyard, and to provide for a storage of at least 1,000,000 tons in that situation. In telegraphing this out, Reuter curiously enough put the storage figures at 100,000 tons only.

L'Echo de Chine says that an enquiry has been held into the reported fracas in which French soldiers were concerned in the Foochow Road, Shanghai. It appears that on the 8th a French corporal passing along the Pakhoi Road wanted a light for his cigar, and seeing a lamp burning in a ground-floor room at No. 169, he went in. An old woman and two young ones were there, and doubting his intentions, they called out for help. Numerous Chinese armed with clubs and iron bars attacked the corporal, who was seriously wounded, but escaped to the International Police Post at 333, Nanking Road. The chief of the post went to the house and everything was settled. The corporal was sober, and the whole affair was just such a misunderstanding as is sure to occur between people ignorant of each other's language. No one has been found deserving of punishment.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Courrier d'Haiphong* writes as follows:—"The French and English soldiers are always ready to come to blows; the officers of one nation are never saluted by the soldiers, and very rarely by the officers, of the other. The opposite is the case between the French and Germans; chauvinists would hardly be satisfied at the relations between the two nations. There seems nothing either intentional or forced in this grouping of sympathies; it is simply natural, and not infrequently a convivial party between French and German soldiers ends in the infliction of a beating on the common enemy of all, the English. The latter no longer count their reverses, as in the Transvaal they are getting used to them." For a combination of sheer malice and mendacity this paragraph would be hard to match. We should like to see this precious correspondent sign his name to his effusion; but this would involve the possession of courage, with which even a *partie de plaisir* with his German friends might fail to inspire him. Anonymity is a great blessing for a certain class of creature.

A Kaifeng despatch states that the city is entirely inundated and that the foundations of the Imperial Palace, intended for the Court on arrival there, have been washed away, and that the telegraph poles are washed down. The roads to be taken by the Court on their route to the south-east are flooded or very muddy, caused by the incessant rains. The high provincial officials are at their wits' end, but they are doing their best to prepare the roads for the Court.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The prices are nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Shekloong, No. 1, White..... | \$8.60 to \$8.65 | pc. |
| do. " 2, White..... | 7.70 to 7.75 | " |
| Shekloong, No. 1, Brown | 6.20 to 6.25 | " |
| do. " 2, Brown | 5.83 to 5.85 | " |
| Swatow, No. 1, White..... | 8.50 to 8.55 | " |
| do. " 1, White..... | 7.61 to 7.64 | " |
| Swatow, No. 1, Brown | 5.85 to 5.90 | " |
| do. " 2, Brown | 5.70 to 5.75 | " |
| Foochow Sugar Candy..... | 12.45 to 12.50 | " |
| Shekloong " | 10.90 to 10.95 | " |

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd September.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saigon, Ordinary..... | \$2.70 to 2.75 |
| " Round, Good quality | 3.92 to 3.95 |
| " Long | 4.15 to 4.20 |
| Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 | 2.80 to 2.83 |
| " Garden, " No. 1 | 3.55 to 3.58 |
| " White..... | 4.20 to 4.25 |
| " Fine Cargo | 4.36 to 4.40 |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *China*, sailed on the 6th August. For San Francisco:—5 cases silkgoods. For La Libertad:—2 cases silkgoods. For Acapulco:—4 cases silkgoods. For Punta Arenas:—2 cases silkgoods. For Panama:—11 cases silkgoods. For New York:—2 cases silkgoods. 15 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 17th August. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London opt. Manchester:—148 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—539 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—121 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 3 cases feathers. For London:—497 half-chests tea from Foochow, 30 cases lychees, 39 bales raw silk, 6 cases silks, 35 cases ariettes, 6 cases empty iron flasks, 6 cases charts, 1 case cigars, 1 case blankets, 4 cases bird feathers, 23 pkgs. sundries. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios.

Per steamer *Peleus*, sailed on the 22nd August. For London:—144 half-chests tea from Amoy (particulars unknown), 220 boxes tea from Amoy (particulars unknown), 499 boxes tea from Macao (particulars unknown), 80 boxes s. o. pekoe 1,680 lbs., 7,822 boxes scented caper 164,162 lbs., 423 bags antimony ore, 4,235 bales hemp, 150 bales waste silk, 206 rolls mats and matting, 150 casks ginger, 305 cases ginger, 50 cases cassia, 30 cases essential oil, 13 cases black-woodware, 14 cases m. o. p. shell, 5 cases gum, 5 cases Chinaware, 6 cases curios, 3 cases cigars, 2 cases lacquerware, 27 pkgs. effects, 30 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Manchester:—96 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—175 bales waste silk. For London opt. Goole:—367 bales pierced cocoons. For London opt. Hamburg:—30 cases cassia, 40 bales cassia, 70 bales canes. For London opt. Glasgow:—100 casks ginger, 600 boxes ginger, 1 box lids. For Glasgow:—1 case curios, 1 case silk embroideries. For Liverpool:—3 pkgs. sundries.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 20th September.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 50 bales No. 8 at \$84, 1,950 bales No. 10 at \$82 to \$92.50, 650 bales No. 12 at \$88 to \$92, 350 bales No. 16 at \$95 to \$103.50, 1,250 bales No. 20 at \$100 to \$113.50. *White Shirtings*: 100 pieces Blue Stock at \$5.40.

METAL.—*Bar Iron*: 2,000 bundles half oval at \$5.25 to arrive. *Swedish Iron*: 1,690 piculs at \$6.85 to arrive.

| COTTON YARN— | per bale |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... | \$72.00 to \$114.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24..... | 114.00 to 120.00 |
| " 22 to 24..... | 120.00 to 128.00 |
| " 28 to 32..... | 130.00 to 142.00 |
| " 38 to 42..... | 155.00 to 170.00 |

| COTTON PIECE GOODS— | per piece. |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. | 2.10 to 2.15 |
| 7 lbs. | 2.20 to 2.30 |
| 8.4 lbs. | 2.80 to 3.40 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | 3.45 to 4.55 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. | \$2.35 to 2.60 |
| 58 to 60 " .. | 3.05 to 4.00 |
| 64 to 66 " .. | 4.05 to 5.60 |
| Fine..... | 5.15 to 7.45 |
| Book-folds | 4.15 to 6.15 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... | 0.73 to 1.20 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. | 1.60 to 1.80 |
| 7lbs. (32 ") .. | 1.85 to 2.15 |
| 6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. | 1.82 to 2.02 |
| 7lbs. (32 ") .. | 2.72 to 3.20 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) | 2.80 to 3.40 |
| Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs. | 4.00 to 6.80 |

FANCY COTTONS—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1 to 8 lbs. | 1.55 to 5.00 |
| Brocales—Dyed | per yard |
| Chintzes—Assorted | 0.08 to 0.17 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in. | 0.22 to 0.60 |
| Velveteens—18 in. | 0.20 to 0.22 |
| Handkerchiefs Imitation Silk | 0.36 to 2.50 |

WOOLLENS—

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. | 0.80 to 1.50 |
| Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths | 1.25 to 2.50 |
| Long Ella—Scarlet..... | 6.40 to 10.00 |
| Assorted..... | 6.50 to 10.10 |
| Camlets—Assorted..... | 12.50 to 32.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches | 8.00 to 20.00 |
| Assorted | 8.50 to 10.00 |
| Orleans—Plain | per pair |
| Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. | 4.00 to 18.00 |

METALS—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Iron—Nail Rod | 4.35 to — |
| Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng. | 4.25 to — |
| Swedish Bar | 4.6 to — |
| Small Round Rod | 4.70 to — |
| Hoop 1 to 1 1/2 in. | 5.40 to — |
| Wire 15 25 | 8.50 to — |
| Old Wire Rope | 3.25 to — |
| Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop | 8.75 to — |
| Australian | 7.50 to — |
| Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz. | 40.00 to — |
| Vivian's 14 20 oz. | 40.00 to — |
| Elliot's 14 20 oz. | 39.00 to — |
| Composition Nails..... | 60.00 to — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs..... | 41.00 to — |
| Tin..... | 269.50 to — |
| Tin-Plates | 8.10 to — |
| Steel 1 to 2 | 6.50 to — |
| New Chops 14 20 oz. | to — |

DRIERS—

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Quicksilver | 167.00 to — |
| Window Glass | 0.20 to — |
| Kerosene Oil..... | 2.35 to — |

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 21st September.

EXCHANGE.

| | |
|--|----------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 1/11 1/2 |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 1/11 1/2 |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 1/11 1/2 |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 1/11 1/2 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 1/11 1/2 |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 1/11 1/2 |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2/44 |
| Credits, 4 months' sight | 2/47 1/2 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 1.98 |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 47 |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 47 1/2 |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 145 |
| Bank, on demand | 145 1/2 |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 145 |
| Bank, on demand | 145 1/2 |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 73 |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73 1/2 |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 5 1/2 |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 3 1/2 |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | 1 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| ON BATAVIA.— | |
| On demand | 118 |
| ON HAIPHONG.— | |
| On demand | 1 1/2 |
| ON SAIGON.— | |
| On demand | 1 1/2 |
| ON BANGKOK.— | |
| On demand | 60 1/2 |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | 10.23 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | 53.4 |
| BAR SILVER, per oz. | 26 1/2 |

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 20th September.—We have nothing special to report in connection with the business of the past week, which has been quiet in all departments.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at \$600 and \$602 1/2, and there are buyers of small parcels still at the former quotation. The London rate has slightly improved, and is now quoted at £61. 10s. 0d. Bank of China and Nationals are unchanged at quotations, and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at \$338 to \$340, and further shares are wanted at the higher rate. North Chinas are enquired for at Tls. 190. Yangtszes have buyers at \$120. Cantons have been done at \$165, but it would be difficult to place further shares at this rate.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are neglected at \$342 1/2 sellers. China Fires have been done at \$82, and further shares can be placed at this rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have continued in request, and sales at \$34 1/2 and \$34 1/2 are reported, the market closing with further buyers at \$34 1/2. Indo-Chinas have declined to \$134, at which the latest sale reported was effected. China and Manilas have been done at \$60 and \$59, and are now on offer at the lower rate. Douglases have been placed at \$45 and are still obtainable. Star Ferries are in demand at former quotations. Shell Transports may be had at £2. 12s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have materially appreciated during the period under review, and sales up to \$140 are reported, the market closing with further buyers. Luzons continue neglected.

MINING.—There is little change to report under this head. Jelebus are wanted at \$4 1/2. Raubs have sold and have further sellers at \$12 1/2.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—A further slight decline in Hongkong & Whampoa Docks has to be recorded, sales having been effected down to \$270, at which, however, the market closes with buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are on offer at \$99. New Amoy Docks are neglected at the nominal quotation of \$25.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed and continue in demand at \$190. Kowloon Lands have been done at \$314, and more shares can be placed. West Points are quiet at \$52, at which sales are reported. Hongkong Hotels are quieter at \$126, at which a small business has been transacted. Oriente Hotels have sold at \$55 and are wanted. Humphreys Estates have been done at \$13 1/2 and \$13 1/2, and are still in demand.

COTTON MILLS.—We have no changes to report under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are obtainable at \$21. A. S. Watson & Co.'s have been done at \$154, and further shares may probably be had. Hongkong Electric have sold at \$12 1/2 (old) and \$6 1/2 (new) and are still in request. Ices are wanted at \$163. Tramways continue in demand at \$275, and Dairy Farms at \$8. United Asbestos have weakened to \$10 with sellers. China Providents have sold and are wanted at \$9 1/2.

MEMOS.—Douglas Steamship Co., Limited, ordinary general meeting of shareholders on the 28th instant, transfer books closed from the 23rd instant. The China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Limited, has declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. for the six months ending 3th June last, and dividend warrants will be issued on the 1st proximo. The Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, notifies its ordinary yearly meeting to be held on the 10th prox., transfer books to be closed from the 30th instant.